seed programme supposed to be run more or less on commercial basis which required proper planning, selection of the suitable varieties, requirement of the seed in various areas and coordination among important players of the seed sector namely donor, UN agencies, producer and other concerned agencies. This was necessary to avoid the selection of wrong varieties, glut or shortage of seed in the area of production and to understand strength and weakness of the programme. In absence of any statutory or government constituted seed board/committee, it was decided to constitute a Seed Review Group (SRG) under the chairmanship of Project Manager. All NGOs/IPs, NPPP (Seeds), STA (Seed), STA (Crop Improvement), UNDP and ISC were appointed as regular members of the SRG. Cooperating UN agencies such as UNDCP, WFP, OPS and UNHCR were taken on board as special invitees. All major donors were also invited to attend the meeting. Some of them attended the meeting regularly. The SRG met twice every year, i.e. before the summer and the winter cropping season to review the production of the previous season and to plan for the ensuing season. Beside this, performance of the varieties, out break of disease and pests and receipt of the sale proceeds, etc. were regularly discussed as separate agenda items. All policy matters relating to seeds were also discussed to seek the opinion of the participants. In fact almost every thing which has any bearing on the seed production and distribution was discussed in the SRG meetings. A copy of the latest proceedings of the 7th SRG meeting is at Annex II.

3.1.10.Gradual Privatization of the Seed Production and Distribution to Introduce Sustainability.

In-country seed production introduced in 1995 has been successful and targets have been exceeded but at the same time it has some limitations. The total amount of seed produced is small in comparison to total requirement and FAO are involved at all levels and have assumed the role of the state in setting up crop improvement, BS and FS production and seed testing. Increasing the seed production capacity has been major concern from the beginning and simultaneously an element of cost recovery was introduced. Both seed and fertilizer were sold to the farmers at a reasonable price. The seed was sold at a price at least10% higher than the grain price in the local market while fertilizer on a small-subsidized price fixed in consultation with ACBAR. This resulted in accumulation of more than US$ 2.07 million in revolving fund maintained for financing private seed enterprises in future. (Table No-11) The funds are managed by a fund management committee comprising of RR, UNDP, Country Director, WFP, Programme Manager, FAO Crops, and STA (Seed) and concerned IP. It is important that support is continued but responsibilities should be transferred as soon as possible. During the earlier phases of the project the primary object was to reintroduce quality seed of improved varieties and restart in-country production. Now the activities must have a greater commercial orientation if sustainable production systems are to be established. This is particularly the case for the NGOs if they are to privatize their seed activities but it is equally important to demonstrate that the ISE units can also survive on their own. It will require persistent effort and an ability to generate interest in seed programme among NGOs and community. Recently, a Seed-marketing Consultant has studied the problem and his report is awaited.

3.1.11. Seed Quality Control

Proper quality control and its declaration in respect of any commodity is an important and necessary link in all trade. With regard to seeds this quality declaration is based



Plate - 3
Rubbhalls, Kandahar



Plate - 4
Seed Center of Afghanistan, Herat

on investigations of various quality characteristics of a seed lot which usually include purity, moisture and germinability. Programme monitor quality at both stages i.e., field and seed. In absence of any statutory seed certification agency the minimum standards specified by FAO for quality declared seed are followed.

3.1.12. Quality at Field Stage

Contract seed producers are encouraged to produce better quality seed so that they get better yield and return and project gets better seed. For this, short training courses are regularly arranged. Minimum number of field inspections are conducted by technical staff of the project. Seed of only those fields found conforming minimum specified standards is approved for procurement.

3.1.13. Quality at Processing Stage

Harvested seed usually contain too much undesirable material. To make seed fit for storage or sowing, its physical condition and quality is improved. Seed is processed to improve physical purity and quality. Seed processing is a vital and necessary operation, which is mandatory for all IPs.

To achieve this goal, the seed, after being received at the plant, is subjected to various operations such as drying, cleaning, grading, treatment with fungicide and packaging etc. Processing involves moving seeds through several machines, which perform specific operations. For this project has more than 23 seed processing facilities at various places. Some are fixed but majority is mobile (Plate-2). All these operations performed for preparation of high quality seed.

3.1.14. Seed Testing

Seed testing is a final step in judging the quality and allowing its distribution. Earlier all samples were tested in a neighboring country but, now majority of samples are tested in the seed testing laboratory at Heart. Only a small number of samples are sent to FSCA, Pakistan for referee testing or where a dispute has arisen between a seed grower and IP.

3.1.15. Safe Storage of the Seed and Fertilizer

To ensure the safe storage of seed, fertilizer and other inputs in seed production centers of food deficit areas of Afghanistan it is necessary to erect safe but cheap storage facilities. Fortunately, the climate of Afghanistan is dry and cool and, thus, favorable to storage of seed safely at room temperature. Thus, seed could be stored up to one year in the ordinary storage conditions in Rubhalls in seed production and distribution area without the risk of loosing germination. Under the present security and political situation it is difficult to construct permanent storage facilities and besides, construction of such facilities only do not require heavy investment but also considerable time. The seed programme needed storage space to place the inputs near doorsteps of the farmers. Luckily, Govt. of Norway donated 10 Rubbhalls to FAO-Crops and these have been erected at several places to store various inputs (Plate-3).

3.1.16. Seed Center of Afghanistan (SCA)

Erection of a complex containing modern facilities of seed drying, processing, treating, packaging, testing and storage at one place is necessary to illustrate the factors involved and the steps necessary to put such a complex in operating order. Usually, such venture is taken up either with the help of government or through international borrowing. In absence of both and paucity of funds the project encouraged Improved Seed Enterprise (ISE), Herat to produce more seed at its seed farms so that sale proceeds could be used for setting up a modern seed center of Afghanistan consisting all necessary facilities. The drawings were developed by the experts of the project and tenders/bids were awarded through local administration. The SCA is located on the silk highway opposite Herat Airport in one-hectare area. It has a fixed seed processing plant with 2.5 MT/ hr seed processing capacity, matching treating and packing facilities, 1,000 MT storage capacity and building of a seed testing laboratory capable testing 15,000 seed samples every year beside an administrative double story block (Plate-4). The processing and storage are already operational while laboratory requires necessary testing equipment.

3.1.17. Joint Programmes with other UN Agencies

Recently, Common Programming has been proposed for implementation in Afghanistan so that all international assistance can be directed through a common channel to empower Afghans to build sustainable livelihoods. In the working paper, it has been defined as a mechanism for establishing the assistance community's priorities, programmes and projects, based upon agreed goals, principles and expressed needs of Afghans.

The needs and goals are not new and have been there since the collapse of the administration in Afghanistan. Therefore, it is not unusual that there have been several joint programmes in seed sector with other UN agencies. UNHCR and FAO are collaborating since 1989 to distribute seed to refugees and WFP and FAO since 1994 to procure and distribute seed under Food- for- seed programme to ensure food security. Recently, FAO has collaborated with UNOPS and UNDCP to reduce poverty in the selected areas and elimination of the cultivation of poppy crop. More than 205 MT seed along with matching quantity of fertilizer has been distributed this year itself (Table No-12 and 13).

3.1.18. Food for Seed

Food security and seed security are two faces of the same coin and follow each other in the sequence of an agricultural rehabilitation. Seed aid required to be matched with food aid to stop it being eaten and food aid must be matched with seed aid to stop it being planted as seed. Accordingly, a new scheme known as Food-for-seed in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) was launched. Contract seed producers received food wheat at a 1.25: 1 exchange ratio for the seed they handed over (there are variations for other crops). This ensured that seed growers had enough food to feed their own families and that a large proportion of their seed crops would travel out of the production areas to other farmers specially in food deficit areas. It also helped to make considerable savings of funds. Food-for seed began in 1994 with 300 MT; 2,607 MT in 1995; 6,905 MT in 1996, 6,578 MT in 1997, 3,544 in 1998 and 5,000 in 1999.

4. FUTURE PRIORITIES

1. Consolidation of the ongoing activities

2. Reduction of dependency syndrome by gradual commercialization of seed production and marketing in eastern and southern regions, expecting free food wheat for exchange with seed and fertilizer by five IPs/NGOs.

3. Targeting assistance to the new areas.

4. Strengthening of farmer-to-farmer seed diffusion

5. Popularization of the use of Quality Declared Seed through a structured demonstration and extension programme.

6. Development of the capacity within Afghanistan to provide quality control services to private commercial producers of high quality seed for major food crops in a manner consistent with international standards.

The seed strategy for next two years is to extend the development of in-country capacity in Afghanistan to produce Quality Declared Seed (QDS) to international standards. Currently some 4,400 farmers are registered to produce QDS through 16 Seed Production Units (SPUs) throughout Afghanistan. Over the next two years these units will be progressively privatized and five new SPUs established in hardship areas. To ensure that the rapid expansion of seed production capacity does not prejudice standards, a national seed quality control programme will be put in place with five regional seed laboratories and a corps of National Seed Quality Monitors. To ensure that the benefits of the greater availability of QDS flow through to the general farming population, a substantial extension programme will be undertaken to demonstrate the yield increase and greater food security which can be achieved through the use of improved seed varieties.

5. Approximate Budget Requirement

US $ 6.000.000.00 (US Dollar six million only)

6. Other Activities

6.1. Back-stopping Mission

Mr. Jean Pierre Marathee, Senior Cereals Officer, AGPC visited Afghanistan from 25 May to 4 June. He visited seed production area and other facilities in western region and suggested speedy transfer of technology to farmers especially introduction of row planting technique.

6.2. Purchase of the Supply and Equipment

The seed component procured substantial quantity of fertilizer, seed treating and certification material. Farm machinery and seed processing equipment were also procured. The detail of the procurement is at Annex III.

6.3. Summary of the STA's Leaves and Missions

Due to security reasons the international staff was evacuated on 21st August 1998 and was allowed to return only on short missions in April 1999. STA (Seed) represented the project on every inter-agency mission sent to explore possibility of long term missions in future. The detail of the missions and leaves is as follows:

Missions

S No.	Date	Place Visited
01	27-05-98-03-06-98	Herat, Turgandi, Zindajan and Khuska
02	09-06-98-14-06-98	Kabul, Logar, Ghazni and Kaandhar
03	05-07-98-11-07-98	Herat and Frah
04	21-07-98-23-07-98	Bamyan
05	09-08-98-11-08-98	Jalalabad
06	16-08-98-19-08-98	Kandhar
07	05-10-98-06-10-98	Peshawar
08	09-12-98-15-12-98	Quetta
09	12-02-99-15-02-99	Quetta
10	09-03-99-12-03-99	Quetta
11	07-04-99-14-04-99	Herat
12	18-04-99-25-04-99	Kandhar and Quetta

Home Leave
28-12-98-05-02-99

7. Conclusion

The difficulties in implementing a seed development programme for and with the poorer and war shattered farmers of Afghanistan are immense. This is a reality and not mentioned to frighten the readers of the report. Shock and pessimism are natural aftermath of any disaster or catastrophe and Afghanistan is no exception. Thus, one has to learn to live with it and programme has to devised and implemented accordingly. Therefore, no purpose is served by exaggerating or underestimating them. Afghan Seed Programme is not a typical seed programme and, therefore it should not be evaluated by applying yardsticks/verifiers specified for normal situations half century ago. Similarly not much purpose would be served by submitting routine reports as ritual unless it deals with immediate problem. Accordingly, after each mission detailed back to office reports were submitted to all concerned and twice every year achievements and future plans were put up before

experts in Seed Review Group meetings. The present TR is basically summary of all these reports.

The enormity of the problems might have induced some despair especially slow progress in privatization of seed enterprises by IPs/NGOs despite accumulation of more than US $ 1.7 million in revolving funds. Similarly, looting of seed processing plant and other equipment including breeder and foundation seed in north and central region, gradual but significant decrease in financial support of donors and frequent and long evacuations or suspension of activities could have encouraged a search for one big solution to make up the loss. But the author is of the opinion that the programme should continue and tackle problems one by one as far as political and military situation permits. This will certainly pay enormous dividend in the form of food security as in food 11988-89 food production declined nearly 40% from 1978 to the time of launching of the seed programme.

Table-1: Detail of the Distribution of Wheat Seed and Fertilizer in Functional PEACE Initiative Districts. (1997-98 and 1998-99).

District	Qty. of Input Distributed (MT)		No. of Recipient Farmers
	Wheat Seed	Fertilizer (DAP + Urea)	
Bala Bulak	80.920	80.95	798
Khake-I-Safed	38.271	38.25	327
Farah	158.890	158.95	1135
Bakwa	61.250	61.60	267
Shindand	111.500	110.65	1430
Dand	51.550	52.00	543
Daman	35.500	35.60	194
Arghandab	21.000	21.10	210
Panjwai	44.250	44.70	394
Shiga	9.000	9.00	86
*Keshm++	0.750	0.75	30
*Jalrez	1.500	1.50	20
*Yakawlang	27.500	55.00	377
*Bamyan	21.000	21.00	402
*Panjao	8.500	8.50	108
*Azra	40.000	45.0	330
*Tezin	40.100	50.0	307
TOTAL	751.481	794.55	6958

* Track two district. ++ Seed activities started only in spring 1999.

Table-2. District-wise quantity of seed to be procured by Shura.

S.No.	PEACE Districts	Qty of Wheat seed to be Procured (MT)
1.	Argandab	50
2.	Dand	60
3.	Panjwai	60
4.	Daman	35
5.	Shega	25
6.	Shindad	100
7.	Balabulak	50
8.	Khake-I-Safed	50
9.	Frah Center Including PusthoRud	130
10.	Bakwa	70
	Total	630

Table-3. Use of Sale Proceeds for Financing Agricultural Activities.

S.No	District	Activity / Purpose	Amount of Loan in Afs & US $
1.	Panjwai	Procurement of Chemical Fertilizer.	Afs.80,000,000 (US.$.2787.45)
2.	Dand	Purchase of four insecticide pesticide sprayers.	Afs.18,000,000 (US.$.627.17)
3.	Arghandab	Purchase of Wheat seed.	Afs.7,777,778 (US.$.271.00)
		Purchase of 12.5 MT. Urea.	Afs.90,000,000 (US.$.3135.88)
		Purchase of 2.5 MT. DAP.	Afs.22,800,00 (US.$.794.42
4.	Daman	Wheat seed.	Pak.Rs.69,00 (US.$.1500)
		Fertilizer.	Pak.Rs.69,00 (US.$.1500)
5.	Shindand	Tractor & Farm equipments.	Afs.780,593,000 (US.$.27198.36)
		Purchase of wheat seed.	Afs.139,165,000 (US.$.4848.95)
		Advance payment/provision for purchase of wheat seed for 1999.	US.$.5355.00
6.	Balablok	Tractor & its equipment.	Afs.528,456,000 (US.$.18413)
		Advance payment/provision for purchase of wheat seed for 1999.	US.$.12777.44
		Purchase of wheat seed.	Afs. 30,813,600 (US.$1073.64)
7.	Bakwa	Purchase of wheat seed.	Afs.139,375,000 (Us.$.4856.27)
		Advance payment/provision for purchase of wheat seed for 1999.	US.$.10600
8.	Khak-e-Safeed	Advance payment/provision for purchase of wheat seed for 1999.	US.$.6150
9	Frah (Pusht-E-Rud)	Purchase of 50 MT wheat seed.	Afs 340,000,000 (US$ 11,846.69)
		Advance payment/provision for purchase of wheat seed for 1999.	US$ 25,990.96 ($10811+$ 8950 +Afs178,800,000)
		Credit to Poor Farmers	Afs 73,200,000 (US$2,550.52)
	Total		US.$.142,276.85

Table-4 Use of Sale Proceeds for financing non-Agricultural Activities.

S No	District	Group	Purpose	Amount of Loan (Afs)/US$
1	Arghandab	Widows	To Purchase 63 Sheep	Afs. 4,000,000.00 (US$ 139.37)
2	Do	Do	To Purchase 45 Sewing Machines	Afs. 5,650,000.00 (US$ 196.86)
3	Pajwai	Widows and Orphans	For Income generating skill	Afs. 179,250,000 (US$ 6,245.64)
4	Do	EC Members	Study Tour cum Training	Afs. 750,000 (US$ 26.13)
5	Do	Community	To purchase Mini bus	Afs. 131,370,000 (US$ 4,577.35)
6	Daman	Community	To improve Animal Husbandry	Afs. 50,113,800 (US$ 1,746.12)
7	Do	Community	To open Village Shops	Afs. 26,376,000 (US$ 919.02)
8	Dand	Widows and Land-less Orphans	To purchase sheep and other income generating activities.	Afs. 263,200,000 (US$ 9,170.73)
9	Various	Community	Credit through *Betulmal* Scheme	Afs. 247,363,300 (US$ 8,618.93)
TOTAL				Afs. 908,073,100.00 (US$.31,640.15)

Table-5. Detail of the Community Tractor Scheme

Detail of the income, expenditure and beneficiaries of the tractor scheme.				
S. No.	Details	Khak-e-Safed	Shindand	Balabuluk
1	Tractor starting project date	8 November 1997	16 January 1998	21 July 1998
2	No. of drivers	5	2	2
3	No. of other staff	2	None	(Accountant) 1
4	Total gross income this date (Afs)	349,055,000	59,150,000	18,840,000
5	Total expenditure (Afs)	240,183,500	32,167,000	17,942,000
6	Net income (Afs)	108,871,500	26,983,000	898,000
7	No. of farmers·benefited	1500	75	16
8	No. of tractors	5	2	4

Table-6. List of the Foundation Seed Farms

S. No.	Farm	Location	Total Area (Ha)	Area under Seed Production (Improved Area) (Ha)
1	Rishkhar	Kabul	65.0	48.0
2	Qargha	Kabul	6.4	6.0
3	Dehdana	Kabul	1.6	1.6
4	Waselabad	Kabul	2.0	2.0
5	Tarnak	Kandahar	960.0	100.0
6 *	Khasapaz	Mazar	195.0	142.0
7	Pulekhumri	Pulekhumri	20.0	18.0
8	Falahat	Herat	1414.0	100.0
9	Hazarjarib	Herat	16.0	12.0
10	Raujbagh	Herat	8.0	7.0
11	Rabatsadar	Herat	6.0	5.0
12	Navabad	Herat	5.0	5.0
13	Zindazan	Zindazan	60.0	30.0
14	NADA	Jalalabad	500.0	100.0
	Total		3259	576.6

* At present occupied by locals

Table-7. Production of Seed by Class 1994/95 to 1998/99

Year	Seed Class	Crop					Total
		Wheat+	Barley+	Rice*	Maize*	Pulses*	
1998/99	Foundation Seed	375	2	17	5	10	409
	Quality Declared Seed	3734	30	300	860	335	5259
	Farmer-to-Farmer	3000	50	500	1200	450	5200
	Total Seed	7109	82	817	2065	795	10868
	No. of Seed Producers						
1997/98	Foundation Seed	487	5	8	8	13	521
	Quality Declared Seed	2668	35	290	612	322	3927
	Farmer-to-Farmer	3195	70	675	1215	475	5630
	Total Seed	6350	110	973	1835	810	10078
	No. of Seed Producers	2560	72	436	1025	480	4573

* Planned, + Estimated

Technical Report- Seed Component Activities 01 May 1998 – 30 April 1999

1. Introduction

The Technical Report (TR) deals with the seed components of the project- Food Security through Sustainable Crop Production (AFG/96/004) and lists all major activities carried out from 01-05-98 to 30-04-99. The Technical Report may not confirm to a normally accepted format because it contains some information from the period outside the reporting time frame. Inclusion of old information was unavoidable because the ongoing project is the successor of the previous project and almost all activities of the predecessor project have been inherited by the present project. Therefore, it was necessary to mention basic facts from previous project to measure the progress, success and failures. Besides, TR is likely to be read. by many who are not so well informed about seed programme in Afghanistan and relevant information from past may make it easy to understand present situation.

The predecessor programme (AFG/94/002) (April 1995- April 1997) was designed to address the seed needs at national level. The present project AFG/96/004 has undergone a distinct structural change to empower community and a new programme known as PEACE Initiative programme was launched in sleeted districts in May 1997. The major thrust was given to produce enough seed through local communities to increase the food production. Major activities include seed production of adapted commercial cultivars for the major food crops through private sector. community and grower associations and facilitation of the access of small farmers to credit schemes, in collaboration with the "Strengthening Community Self-help Capacities in Rural Afghanistan" project. At the same time continuation of ongoing activities at national level was also approved depending on the budgetary support available from other sources. Accordingly, the technical report has been divided into two parts. Part-I deals with PEACE Initiative programme while Part-II discusses the progress and achievements made at national level.

With all uncertainties project continued its activities and as a result developed an approach which could be used as a blue print for an emergency situation at any time in any country. As a result project could produce and distribute more than 10,078Mt seed of various classes of high yielding varieties in 1997-98 and 10,868 MT is likely to be produced in 1998-99. In PEACE Initiative area more than 751 MT seed was distributed which was 342% more than the target. Sale proceeds of seed and fertilizer exceeding more than US $ 173,916 was handed over to the community groups to further invest in income generating schemes. Similarly, sale proceeds accumulated with five NGOs working as Implementing Partners is being kept in special account managed by the concerned IP but supervised by a Fund Management Committee for setting up seed enterprises in private sector. A consultant was recently fielded to study and suggest the privatization of seed industry. The production and distribution of quality seed along with matching quantity of fertilizer significantly contributed in restoring crop productivity of major cereal crops to pre-war level. The availability of seeds of early maturing high yielding varieties enabled the farmers to produce more food per unit area. As a result, the

Table-8. **Summary of Fertilizer - (DAP and Urea) Procured & Dispatched to Afghanistan**
Period: (1997-1999)

Year	DAP (MT)	Urea (MT)	Total (MT)
1997	650	950	1600
1998	3,257.50	2,007.50	5265
1999			
Total	3,907.50	2,957.50	6,865.00

Table-9. Crop Productivity in Kg

S.No	Crop	1978*	1988+	1998x
		Yield (kg)	Yield (kg)	Yield (kg)
1	Wheat	1131	995	1276
2	Rice	1905	1450	2200
3	Maize	1583	810	1500

Source: * Ministry of Planning, Govt. of Afghanistan
\+ UNIDATA and FAO
X FAO/WFP-Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission.

Table-10. Detail of CSAs – 1999

IP	Project Number	Quantity of Seed (MT)	Amount US$	1st Installment Date and Cheque	2nd Installment Date and Cheque
IRC	SP/W/KHOST/IRC/99	250.00	13,750	Rs.341069DV670 /98Chq.973275	Rs.341069D V55/99 Chq.979486
ISRA	SP/W/KABUL-LOGAR/ISRA/99	250.00	13,750	Rs.341069DV671 /98Chq.973276	
	SP/W/KUNAR/ISRA/99	200.00	11,000	Rs272855DV672/ 98 Chq973277	
MCI	SP/WQ/KHU/MCI/99	300.00	16,500	Rs409282DV669/ 98Chq.973274	
SCA	SP/W/GNT/SCA/99	200.00	11,000	Rs272874 DV667 /98Chq.973272	
VARA	SP/W/BD/VARA/99	300.00	16,500	Rs409282 DV668 /98Chq973273	
Solidarites	SP/W/BJB/Solidarites/99	200.00	11,000		
Total	WHEAT	1700.00	93,500		
Summer 1999					
IRC	SP/S/KHOST/IRC/99	175.00	9,625		
ISRA	SP/S/KKL/ISRA/99	275.00	15,125		
MCI	SP/S/HQUZ/MCI/99	275.00	15,125		
VARA	SP/S/NIMROOZ/VARA/99	75.00	4,125		
Total	SUMMER	800.00	44,000		

Table-11. Funds Generated through the Sale of Seed & Fertilizer

IP/CA	Currency	SALE PROCEEDS			Previous Balance	Total Amount
		Foundation Seed	Quality Declared Seed	Fertilizer		
MCI	Rs.	56,000	3,015,000	2,743,405	16,721,396.0	22,535,801.0
IRC	Rs.	-	2,786,427	1,603,915	12,782,249.0	17,172,591.0
ISRA	Rs.	87,040	2,868,240	764,900	10,204,161.0	13,924,341.0
SCA	Rs.	-	1,644,389	-	10,491,587.0	12,135,976.0
VARA	Rs.	83,916	2,039,821	2,012,717	7,415,329.0	11,551,783.0
NADA	Rs.	-	1,413,000	-	2,227,500.0	3,640,500.0 (2,183,633)*
Comm. Kandahar (Outside PEACE)	Rs.	-	-	-	287,923.0	287,923.0
Comm. Grishk	Rs.	-	-	-	366,822.0	366,822.0
ISE, Heart	Rs.	-	-		161,400.0	161,400.0
	Afs.	-	1,333,395,000	897,525,000	4,246,936,580.0	6,477,856,580.0 (4967310352)**
	US$	12,774	-	-	40,300.5	53,074.5
Comm.Argistan (UNHCR)	US$	-		3,444	-	3,444.0
Comm.Balabulak (UNHCR)	US$	-	-	1,432	-	1,432.0
Comm. Maiwand &Sear (UNHCR)	US$	-	-	3,847	-	3,847.0
ISE, Mazar	US$	-	-	-	-	18,837.0
ISE, Pulekhumry	US$	-	3,300	-	56,350.0	59,650.0
ISE, Kabul	Afs.	97,440,000	132,000,000	126,432,000	715,200,600.0	1,071,072,600.0
ISE, Kandhar	Afs.	-	677,678,000	-	-	677,678,000.0
TOTAL	**US$**					**140,284.5**
	Rs.					**81,777,137.0**
	Afs.					**8,226,607,180.0**

Table-12. The Detail of Distribution of Seed & Fertilizer in the Area of Potential Return of Refugees

District	Qty. of Seed Distributed (MT)	Qty. of Fertiliser Distributed (MT)	No. of Returnee Farmers Received Inputs
ARGISTAN	23.00	23.00	230
MAIWAND (Kandahar)	12.00	12.00	120
GARM SEER	15.00	15.00	150
Engile	10.00	10.00	100
Balbulak	10.00	10.00	100
Khawa	10.00	10.00	153
Khake Jabbar	4.00 (4.00)*	6.00 (4.00)*	33
Kargai	10.00	10.00	89
Tezin	20.10 (10.00)*	20.00 (10.00)*	202
Azara	20.00 (10.00)*	20.00 (10.00)*	228
Danda Patan	20.00	19.80	252
Gombat	2.00	2.00	20
TOTAL	180.10	181.80	1677

Table-13. Detail Of Wheat Seed & Fertilizer Distribution By Fao-Crops under UNDCP Programme In 1998-99 In Southern Region

DISTRICT	Wheat Seed (MT)			Fertilizer (MT)		
	Bakhtawar-92	PS-85	Total	Urea	DAP	Total
ARGHANDAB	10	2.5	12.5	6.25	6.25	12.5
PANJWAI	10	2.5	12.5	6.25	6.25	12.5
TOTAL	20	5.0	25.0	12.50	12.50	25.0

Graph No. 1: Distribution of Seed Through Import and In-Country Production After Signing of the Geneva Accord (1988)

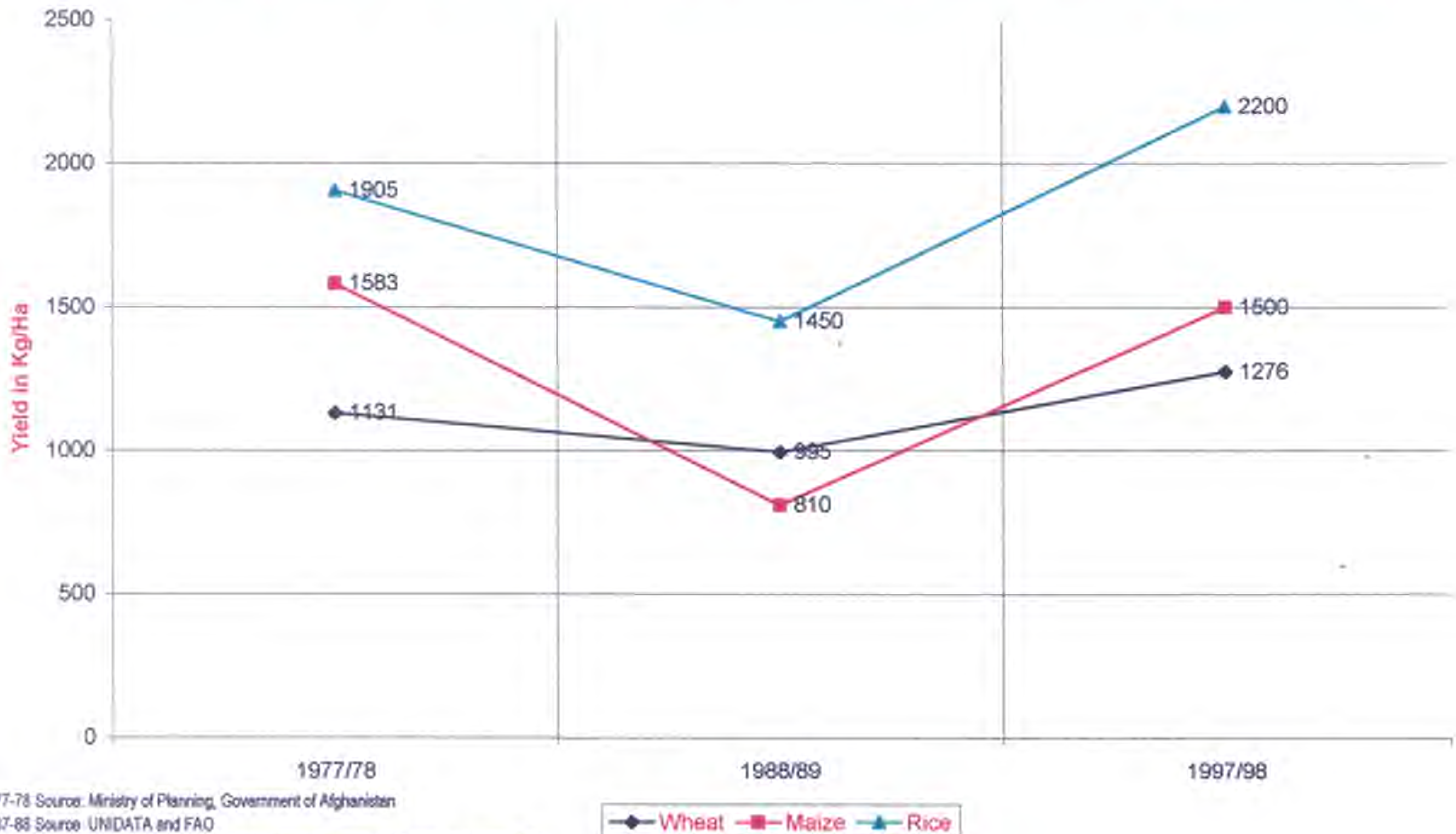


	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Import	2367	3106	1446	1986	1950	1595	1153	157	101	22	43
Farmer to Farmer	0	0	0	0	0	0	3695	2233	5820	5630	5200
FS+QDS	341	952	1278	2873	3838	2436	2510	4224	4352	4448	5668
Total	2708	4058	2724	4859	5788	4031	7358	6614	10273	10100	10911

Import — Farmer to Farmer — FS+QDS — Total

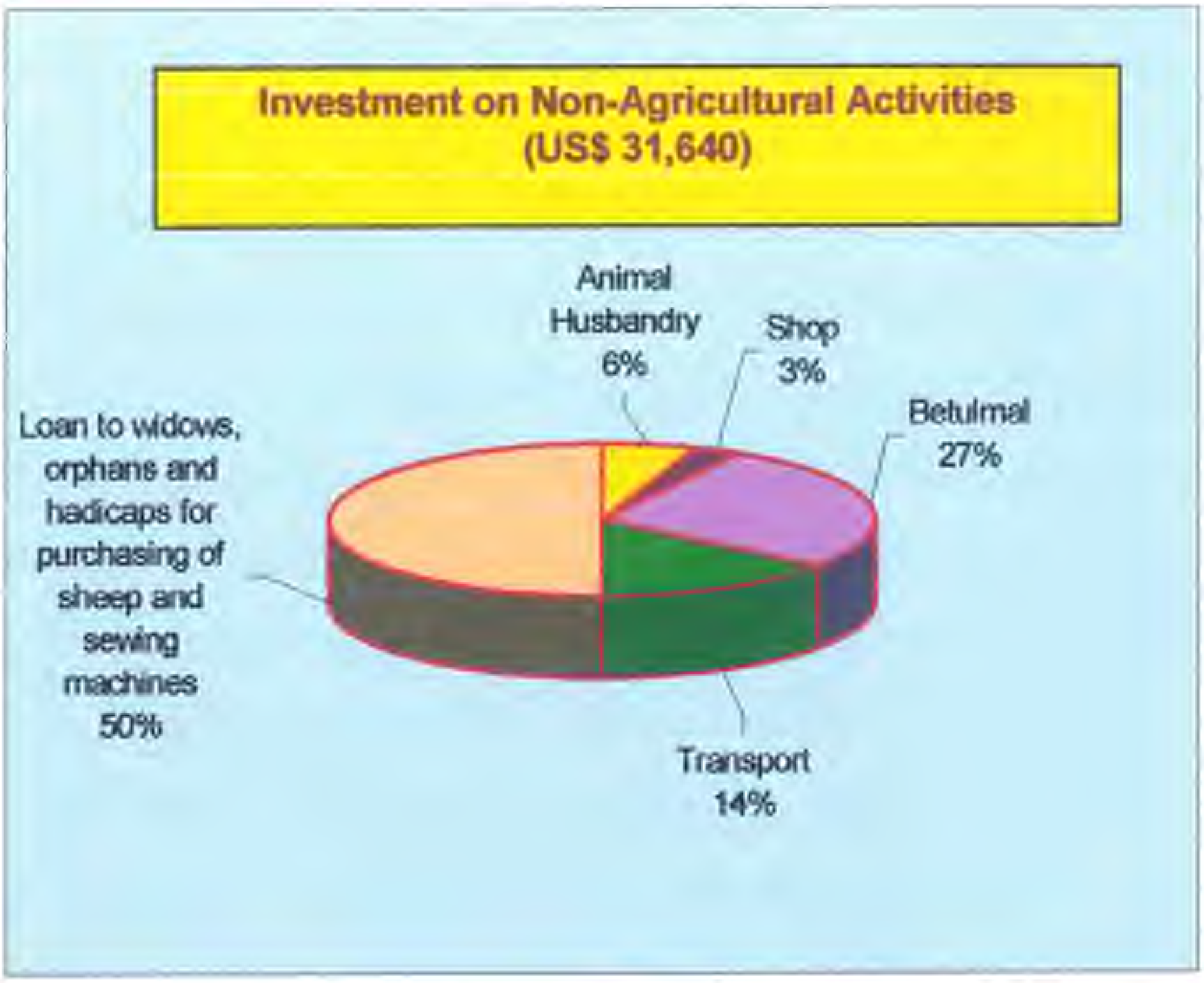
Graph/Dtbn

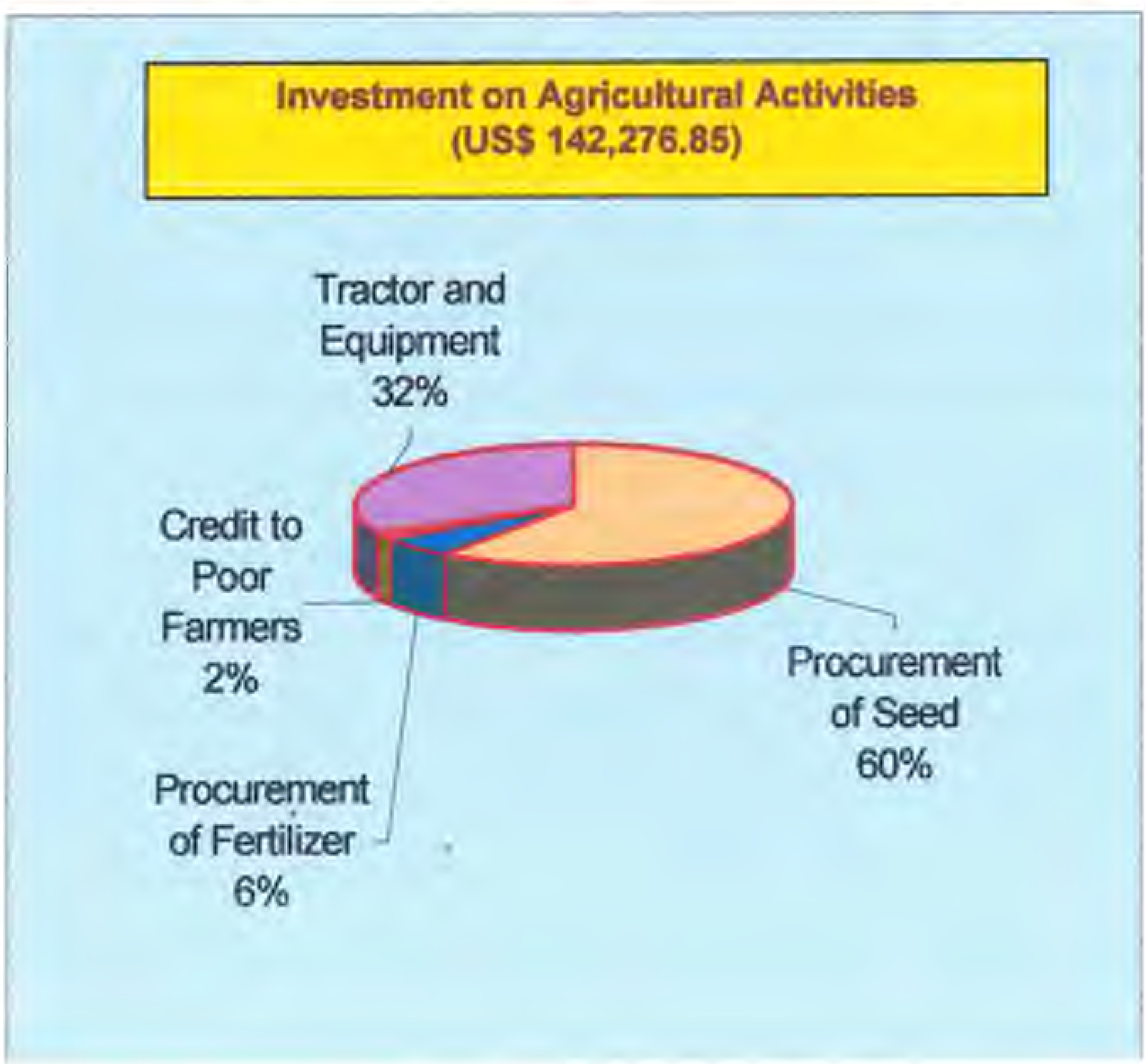
Graph No. 2: Yield in Kg/Ha of Important Cereal Crops in Afghanistan



1977-78 Source: Ministry of Planning, Government of Afghanistan
1987-88 Source: UNIDATA and FAO
1997-98 Source: FAO/WFP "Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission to Afghanistan"

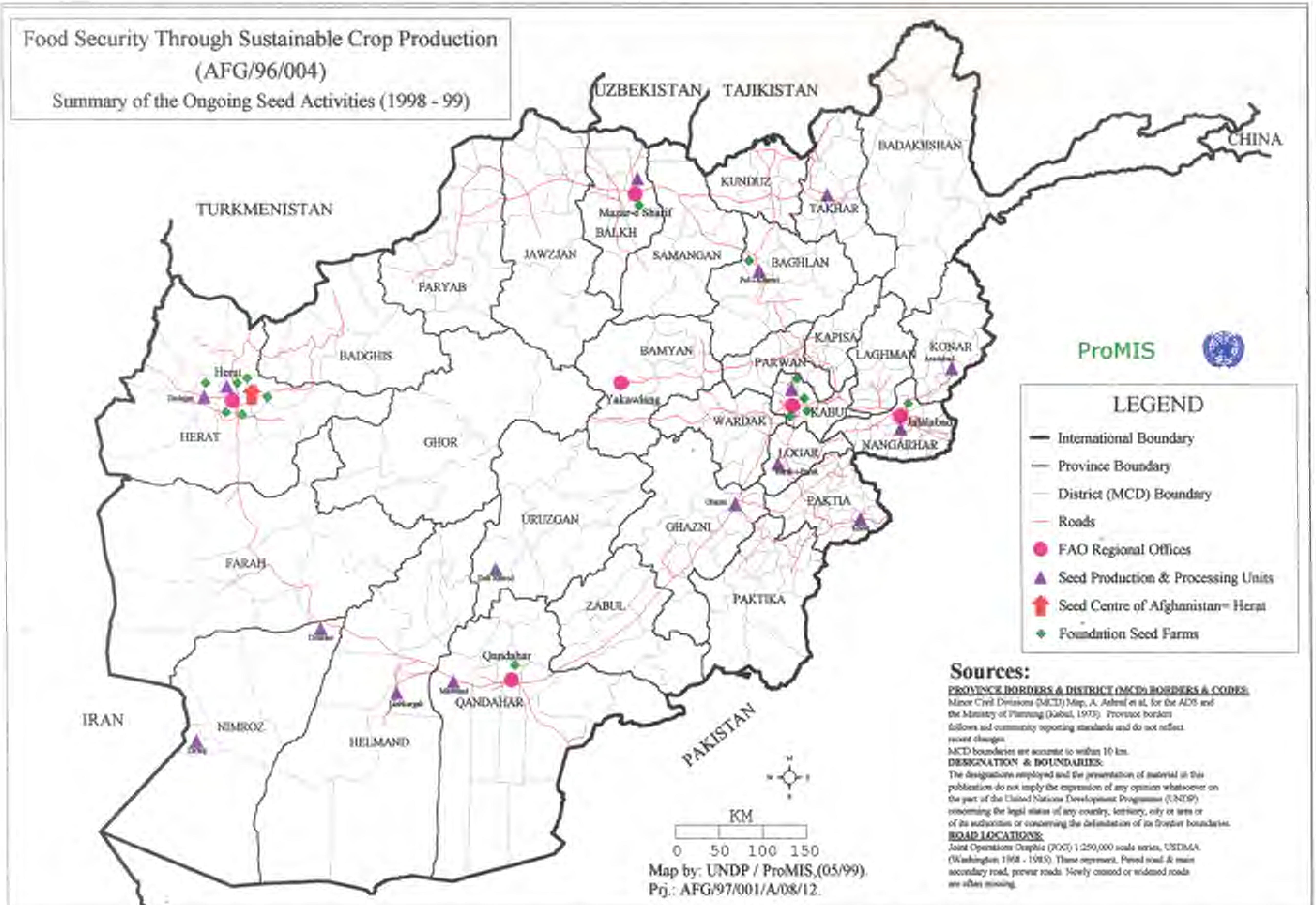
Piechart No. 1: Investment at a Glance





Food Security Through Sustainable Crop Production (AFG/96/004)

Summary of the Ongoing Seed Activities (1998 - 99)



December 2, 1998

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO).
AFG/96/004
FOOD SECURITY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE CROP PRODUCTION

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER (IP) :Solidarites

PROJECT SYMBOL : SP/W/BJB/Solidarites/99

PROJECT TITLE : In-country Seed Production Programme

Dear Mr. Laurent Gilet

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations hereinafter referred to as "FAO" and Solidarites hereinafter referred to as "Implementing Partner" (I.P.) have agreed to cooperate in achieving the particular objective specified in the annexed document to produce seed of Quality declared seed of wheat as indicated in Annex-I through contract seed growers. It is further agreed that seed so produced will be sold to the farmers along with fertilizer, if supplied, at a sale price mutually agreed upon. The sales proceeds will be deposited in a separate bank account operated by IP but overseen by a Fund Management Committee - FMC (composition of the committee is given in Appendix-I). The further use of sales proceeds will be exclusively for strengthening of seed production, quality control and distribution with the approval of the committee.

The modalities of cooperation as well as the financial and other terms and conditions are set forth in the enclosed Annexure, which constitute an integral part of the Agreement.

Using resources allocated to the programme, FAO thus agrees to grant the Implementing Partner (I.P.) physical inputs in the form of seed, fertilizer, equipment, and training materials, as specified in Annexure.

The seed shall be produced in the manner specified and conforms to the quality standards specified in Appendix - II.

Further more using resources allocated to the project, FAO agrees to provide the I.P. for carrying out/rendering the assigned activities/services a financial compensation in local currency Pak Rupees *******, but not exceeding US$11,000.00 being financial support for this sub project.

Payments will be made in two installments as follows.

50% at start up, on signature of the Letter of Agreement.
50% after completion of processing and packing of seed

General Conditions.

1. The inputs and funds provided by FAO are to be used exclusively for the purpose as described in ANNEX 1.

2. The personnel employed by the I.P. or any other person co-opted by the I.P. will not be:

   a. permitted to incur any commitment or expenditure on behalf of the FAO.

   b. considered in anyway as staff member of FAO, and thus not entitled to any privileges, immunities, compensation, or insurance cover normally accorded to FAO staff.

   c. The I.P. is expected to provide for its own insurance in respect of any accident, illness, damage or loss that may occur while the assigned project's (code No. SP/W/BJB/Solidarites/99) activities/services are being undertaken/rendered.

3. The terms of reference under which the FAO/UN funds are committed to rehabilitation efforts in Hazaradjat, Afghanistan are being undertaken over a commitment to support efforts to eventually eradicate the cultivation of illicit crops.

   Support and Funding to the Provinces and District(s)/Sub-district(s) targeted is dependant upon the cooperation of the I.P. in this endeavor, and of the farmers in the area not to cultivate opium poppy (Papaver somniferum) (as set out in detail in ANNEX I.

4. The I.P. shall take full responsibility for the seed, fertilizer and packaging and treating material after the consignment once it has been handed over at the place agreed upon, and shall make adequate provision for and protection and/or insurance of the said inputs after consignment.

5. FAO shall not be held liable to indemnify any third party in respect of any claim, debt, damage or demand arising out of the implementation of this Agreement, nor shall it accept liability for compensation for the death, disability or other hazards, which may be suffered by employees of the I.P.as a result of their employment on work, which is the subject matter of this Agreement.

6. Nothing in this Agreement or relating hereto shall be construed as constituting a waiver of the privileges and immunities of the FAO.

7. Any amendment to this Agreement shall be effective only on the basis of written mutual consent by the signatories or their authorized representatives.

8 In the event of the I.P's non-compliance or partial compliance with the terms of reference in respect of this Agreement, it will refund to FAO the un-used input and any payment received in respect of services or activities that have not been rendered or undertaken by the I.P. to the standards considered acceptable by FAO.

9 If you accept the stipulated terms and conditions, please sign this letter of Agreement in the space provided below, and return the original to this office with your banking instructions.

10. This Agreement shall enter into force upon its signature on behalf of FAO and Solidarites.

Yours Sincerely

Hans C. Brink
Programme Manager
AFG/96/004

Enclosure.

We agree to accept the terms and conditions contained in this Letter of Agreement and accompanying ANNEX.

Name
Title:
Implementing Partner.
Location/Address:
Agreed by:

Name Signature Title Date

Banking Instructions:
Address: ....
Account No. ....
Account Name:....................

crop productivity has almost acquired the level of 1978 that is the best year of the agriculture production of Afghanistan. Before the start of the war in 1978, Afghanistan achieved self-sufficiency in food and could support its 14 million population without importing any food grain. However, now population has increased more than 20 million and large productive area (Approx. 2%) has gone under illicit crops thus pushing the wheat crop to marginal areas (Plate-1). Beside this, 0.646 million ha abandoned land is yet to be brought under plow. If we ignore distribution inequities. we still have production systems capable of coming close to supporting the entire pre-war population at base subsistence (1.8 MT cereal crop equivalents per family). Food security at the farm level should be an attainable goal within two –three years provided key inputs of seed, some fertilizer, water, and labor and some power are provided or available. The determination of the priority, quantity and manner of supply of these inputs is one of the main tasks of FAO-Crops and will mainly depend on the funds available.

No doubt. there are some weaknesses in the programme. It is due to mainly three factors the instability, insufficiency of inputs and continuing evolutionary nature. Instability also includes absence of a proper central government and necessary administrative infrastructure needed to support the developmental and rehabilitation programmes.

Though TR has been prepared to fulfill mandatory requirement but at the same time it is intended to invite suggestions and comments of the experts to whom it is being submitted. It will help to revise the approach likely to be implemented in the new millenium.

2. Part-I

2.1. Status of the Implementation of Seed Related Activities in various PEACE Initiative Districts.

The major responsibility of the AFG/96/004 is to implement the programme in PEACE Initiative districts to achieve specified objectives. Seed component of the programme has been assigned a major responsibility to increase the food production and empowerment of the community in conjunction with other components of the project.

2.1.1. Seed Production through Communities / Shura in PEACE Initiative district.

Due to security problem the seed production activities were started in time only in 10 PEACE Initiative districts of western and southern regions out of 23 districts slected all over the country. The programme was further expended in the 5 more districts adopted as second track districts in the second year. The seed in PEACE Initiative districts is directly produced through community seed multiplication groups. The project produces improved seed that is available for distribution to farmers in the project areas. It is based on the expected number of functioning groups in each year. Experienced farmer groups participating in the seed development project are provided seed of improved varieties for multiplication.

ANNEX TO AGREEMENT

PROJECT TITLE: IN-COUNTRY SEED PRODUCTION PROGRAMME

This ANNEX sets out the terms and conditions (TOR) for the Agreement between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Solidarites in respect of the sub-project No.SP/W/BJB/Solidarites/99 under Project No. AFG/96/004 - Food Security Through Sustainable Crop Production, in Bamyan, Jalrez and Bessoud and their District/Sub-District. In this area will organize the production and marketing of 200.00 MT seed during 1998-99.

To ensure that only seed of desired quality is produced and distributed the IP shall appoint technical staff which have the necessary qualifications and experience. The IP should ensure that the staff has:

i. Adequate training and/or experience in seed technology and Agronomy.

ii. Ability to supervise and participate in production, harvesting, threshing, drying, cleaning, packaging and labelling of seed lots.

iii. Ability to observe the characteristics of the growing seed crop and eliminate those plants not typical of the variety.

iv. Capability to maintain details of seed field observations and other records including the history, location, weight and test results of each seed lot.

v. The means to ensure proper storage of each seed lot.

The IP will have freedom to select the contract seed producers. However, while allocating Foundation Seed (FS), the following specifics will be pursued:

i Farmers will be encouraged to actively participate in the seed production programme.

ii Seeds will be allocated to areas most suitable for seed production.

iii. Within a chosen compact area, allocate seed to farmers that have experience in seed growing or to farmers who are interested in seed production and marketing and are prepared to pay careful attention to detail, accept technical advice and follow established standards.

iv. Seed producers should have respect in their communities, be honest, dedicated to improving crop production and committed to discourage poppy cultivation. FAO and its implementing partners will ensure that community leaders in the selected project areas understand and are committed to the following:

- To provide support to UN efforts to prevent, reduce and eventually eradicate opium poppy cultivation, opium processing, and narcotics trafficking and abuse in the selected project area(s).

- To provide assurance that project activities do not benefit or otherwise result in the cultivation of illicit crops, particularly opium poppy.

- To acknowledge their understanding that evidence of cultivation of illicit crops resulting from the project activities will lead to the withdrawal of all UN assistance from the area.

- FAO and its implementing partners will monitor project beneficiaries'

performance with respect to the above with the assistance of UNDCP.

v. Choose seed producers in locations that will minimize transportation costs for moving seed from the farm to a processing facility.

vi Establish a minimum quantity for allocation within the capacity of the labour and equipment available.

vii Subject to above considerations, allocate seed widely to minimize the risk of total failure.

The IP will assist FAO to initiate, promote and otherwise support in-country seed programme which can contribute to economic development and humanitarian relief.

The IP will initiate all necessary steps for the development over a period of time of production and marketing systems for commercial supplies of quality seed at affordable prices.

The IP in collaboration with FAO shall assist in arranging a demonstration programme to show to farmers the realizable productivity potentials of quality seed of improved varieties vis-a-vis prevailing traditional varieties under normal farming conditions.

IP shall keep the FAO regularly informed as to technical and administrative execution of the sub-project in the specified proforma devised for this purpose.

IP shall allow and assist the staff of AFG/96/004 to carry out monitoring missions and shall supply such information as they may require for the purpose of technical evaluation of seed being produced.

If due to natural calamity or any other valid reason(s) the IP could not carry out the obligation of production and distribution of required quantity of seed, the financial assistance shall be reduced accordingly (but not to exceed 50% of the agreed service charge). This shall be done with consultation between the IP and the FAO.

All material equipment and supplies which are supplied by FAO will be used exclusively for the execution of the sub project and will remain the property of the FAO. The left over of any material/supplies will be returned to the FAO.

IP shall be responsible for maintenance and operation of the equipment and machinery.

IP shall guarantee production of at least 200 MT wheat. in a given period under one sub project.

Any matter arising out of the execution or interpretation of this Agreement shall be subject to consultations between IP and the FAO.

Procurement of Seed

Though FAO will try its best to arrange necessary funds or food for seed in collaboration with World Food Programme (WFP) to buy back the targeted quantity of seed but does not give any guarantee for procurement. Under such eventuality the IP shall be free to arrange its own resources to procure the seed and sale proceed shall not attract the obligation stipulated in the Agreement. However, for any reason, if seed is not procured the IP shall encourage the seed producers to distribute the seed under farmer to farmer exchange programme.

Salient features of the sub project:

Sub project Code : SP/W/BJB/SOLIDARITES/99
Implementing Partner: Solidarites
Area : Bamyan, Jalrez and Bessoud
Starting date : November 1998
Duration : 12 months

Objective : To strengthen the in-country seed production programme through contract seed producers and to provide sustainability and lay the foundation of a national seed programme in private sector.

Inputs:

i. Required quantity of early generation (breeder/foundation seed) for multiplication.

ii. Matching quantity of fertilizer to be distributed to contract seed producers along with early generation seed.

iii. Seed processing equipment (stationary or mobile).

iv. Required quantity of seed dressing chemical.

v. Required quantity of certification and packaging material.

vi. Necessary funds or food material in collaboration with WFP for procurement of Quality Declared Seed (QDS), if possible.

vii. Seed analysis report.

viii. Fertilizer to be distributed along with QDS (depending on the availability of fertilizer).

ix. Transportation charges of early generation seed, chemicals, certification and packaging material and fertilizer up to sub project office.

x. Technical information and backstopping.

xi. Funding support at the rate of US$ 55/MT of processed and packed seed confirming to the specified standards.

Outputs:

i. Production of following quantity of processed seed of various crops conforming to the specified standards.

S. No.	Crop	Quantity of seed (MT)
1.	Wheat	200.00
Grand Total		200.00

The Following varieties will be multiplied

Pamir-94, HD-2285 and Bakhtawar-92

ii. Seed and other supplies Safely stored of till their disposal.

iii. Seed processing machine and equipment appropriately accommodated.

iv. Training provided to the contract seed producers and interested farmers in the art of quality seed production and on-farm seed production respectively.

v. Seed and fertilizer sold at mutually agreed prices sales proceeds collected and safely deposited in a special account opened for the purpose and over seen by the Fund Management Committee (FMC).

vi. A plan drafted for utilization of sale proceeds to strengthen seed production and distribution activities in private sector.

Beneficiaries: The population of the region as a whole will benefit through increased food production and approximately 10,000 farm families will receive direct benefit through the increased availability of high quality seed of high yielding disease resistant varieties.

Total Cost: FAO cash contribution will be equivalent to US$ 11,000.00.

Implementing Partner: Solidarites
Contact Person: Mr. Laurent Gilet

Starting Date: November 1998

Payment Schedule: 50% at start up, on signature of the Letter of Agreement.

50% after completion of processing and packing of seed

Total Cash Payment: US$ 11,000.00

Appendix - I

The FAO shall constitute a committee called the Fund Management Committee (FMC) to over see the utilization of sale proceeds generated from the sale of the seed and fertilizer under sub project SP/W/BJB/SOLIDARITES /99

The FMC shall consist of the following members, namely:

i. Programme Manager AFG/96/004

ii. Res. Rep, UNDP Afghanistan or his nominee

iii. *Country Director, WFP Afghanistan or his nominee

iv. Chief Executive of the Implementing Partner

v. STA (Seed), AFG/96/004

* only in case if Quality Declared Seed (QDS) is procured in collaboration with WFP.

The IP shall manage the bank account and ensure that:

1. A separate account will be opened by the Implementing Partner (IP) in any Scheduled bank located at its HQs.
2. Sale proceed of previous week will be deposited next week in to the bank.
3. The funds generated from sale of inputs kept in the above IP account are the property of the IP according to agreed conditions indicated below and the IP has the direct responsibility to manage the funds. AFG/96/004 will have no responsibility for any losses arising through transaction on the account.
4. Withdrawal of the funds will be made only after the approval of the Fund Management Committee constituted for the purpose.
5. The funds will be used for strengthening seed production and distribution activities.
6. The implementing Partner will furnish quarterly a certified copy of bank statement to the FMC.

Appendix-II
GENERAL SEED STANDARDS

The General Seed Standards are applicable to all crops which are eligible for production under this Sub Project, and the field and seed standards for the individual crops, shall constitute the Minimum Seed Standards.

I. PURPOSE OF SEED STANDARDS:

The purpose of seed is to improve the quality of seed being offered for sale in Afghanistan where Government resources for regular quality control method are almost non existent.

II. CONTRACT SEED PRODUCER:

Contract seed producer means a person/organization who grows or distributes seed in accordance with the procedures and standards specified here under.

III. CLASS AND SOURCES OF SEED

A. Breeder seed

Breeder seed is seed or vegetative propagating material directly controlled by the originating or sponsoring plant breeder of the breeding programme or AFG/94/002 and/or seed whose production is personally supervised by a qualified staff and which provides the source for the initial and recurring increase of Foundation seed.

Breeder seed shall be genetically so pure as to guarantee that in the subsequent generation i.e. Foundation seed class conform to the specified standards of genetic purity.

B. Foundation seed

Foundation seed produced directly from Breeder seed shall be designated as Foundation seed.

C. Quality Declared Seed

Quality Declared Seed shall be the seed approved by the AFG 94 002 and produced from Foundation seed.

IV. PHASES OF SEED INSPECTION

Inspection shall be completed in six broad phases listed as under:

(a) receipt and scrutiny of application;

(b) verification of seed source, class and other requirements of the seed used for raising the seed crop;

(c) field inspection to verify conformity to the specified field standards.

(d) supervision at post-harvest stages including processing and packing;

(e) seed sampling and analysis, including genetic purity test and/or seed health test, if any, in order to verify conformity to the prescribed standards; and

(f) grant of approval for packing by AFG/94/002.

V. FIELD AREA FOR CERTIFICATION

There is no minimum or maximum limit for the area offered by a person for certification, provided the certified seed production meets all the prescribed requirements.

VI. UNIT OF SEED PRODUCTION

For the purpose of field inspections, the entire area planted under seed production by an individual shall constitute one unit provided:

(a) it is all under one variety;

(b) it does not exceed ten hectares;

(c) it is not divided into field separated by more than fifty meters between them;

(d) it is planted with or is meant to produce seed belonging to the same class and stage in the generation chain;

(e) the crop over the entire area is more or less of the same stage of growth so that observations made are representative of the entire crop;

(f) the total area planted, by and large, corresponds to the quantity of seed reported to have been used; and the Project's permission had been obtained to sow a larger area by economizing on seed rate; if that be the case;

(g) raised strictly as a single crop and never as mixed;

(h) not so heavily and uniformly lodged that more than one third of the plant population is trailing on the ground leaving no scope for it to stand up again thus making it impossible for the Certification Agency to inspect the seed crop at the appropriate growth stage in the prescribed manner;

(i) as far as possible, so maintained as to show adequate evidence of good crop husbandry thereby improving the reputation for quality declared seeds.

VII. FIELD INSPECTION

(a) the field inspection work which requires technically-trained personnel, shall be performed by the persons who have been so authorized by the IP;

(b) field inspection meant to verify those factors which can cause irreversible damage to the genetic purity or seed health shall be conducted without prior notice to the seed producer;

(c) soon after the completion of the field inspection, a copy of the report shall be handed over to the producer or his representative.

VIII. HARVESTING, THRESHING AND TRANSPORTATION

Seed crop meeting field standards shall be harvested, threshed and transported to the seed processing plant in accordance with guidelines issued by the IP. During these operations, seed producer will take all precautions to safeguard the seed from admixture and other causes of seed deterioration.

IX. BULKING

Bulking of unprocessed seed stocks to obtain larger homogeneous seed stocks may be permitted by the IP provided the stocks to be bulked meet the following requirements:

- belong to the same seed producer;
- belong to the same crop, variety, class of seed and stage in the generation chain;
- were produced in the same season and under similar agro-climatic conditions;
- have more or less similar physical appearance and levels of moisture;
- adequately homogeneous in composition.

X. SEED PROCESSING AND PACKING SCHEDULE

The IP shall prepare and communicate seed processing and packing schedule to all contract seed producers and AFG/94/002 soon after the completion of inspection of seed crops at field stage. The seed producers shall adhere to the schedule specified by the IP.

XI. SEED LOT :

A seed lot is a physically identifiable quantity of seed which is homogeneous.

XII. LOT SIZE

A seed lot would represent any quantity of agricultural seed up to a maximum of 20,000 kilograms for seeds of the size of rice or larger (except maize seed for which the maximum size of the lot may be 40,000 kilograms) and 10,000 kilogram for seeds smaller than rice subject to a tolerance limit of 5.0%. The quantities in excess of the above maximum limits shall be sub-divided and a separate lot identification shall be given.

XVIII. CONSTRUCTION OF SEED LOT NUMBER

Each seed lot shall be assigned a specific number in order to facilitate maintaining its identity, tracing back to its origin, handling in stores, transit etc., accounting and inventory maintenance and referring/communicating about a certain quantity of seed. The IP and Project jointly will decide the procedure for assigning lot numbers.

XIII. SEED PROCESSING

Seed processing means cleaning, drying, treating, grading and other operations which will improve the quality of seeds. Seed from fields which conformed to the standards at field stage shall, as soon as possible after the harvest will be brought at processing plant for processing. The screen aperture size is given bellow shall be used for cleaning and grading of seeds so that typical contaminants such as weed seeds, small seeds, damaged seeds, broken and shrivelled seeds, straw, chaff, leaves, twigs, stones, soil particles etc. are removed. Processed seed shall not have seed of the size lower than the bottom screen used beyond 5.0% (by weight).

SCREEN APERTURE SIZE FOR SEED PROCESSING

S.No.	Crop	Screen aperture size in millimeters	
		Top screen	Bottom screen
1	2	3	4
Cereals			
1.	Barely:		
	2 Rowed	6.50 r	2.30 s
	6 Rowed	6.50 r	2.10 s, 2.20 s
2.	Paddy		
3.	Wheat:		
	T.aestivum	6.00 r	1.80 s, 2.10 s,2.30 s
	T.durum	6.00 r	2.10 s, 2.30 s
Millets			
1.	Maize	10.50r, 11.00r	6.40r, 8.00r
Pulses			
1.	Blackgram	5.00r	2.80s
2.	Cowpea	7.00r	3.50r,4.00r
3.	Greengram	5.50r	2.80s,3.20s
Oilseeds			
1.	Sesame	2.40r	1.60r,1.90r
2.	Soyabean	8.00r	4.00s
3.	Sunflower	9.00r	2.40s

XIV. SEED TREATMENT

When a variety, seed of which is under production is susceptible to a seed borne disease organism or when seed is carrying a seed borne pathogen and a seed treatment is available which may control the disease or pathogen when properly applied, the IP may require such seed to undergo such treatment before procurement. In case seed in required to be treated before sowing by the user, the chemical calculated at the recommended dose shall be kept in a plastic packet and placed inside the seed container with complete direction and precautions required for treating of the seed. The information about the treatment shall also be displayed on seed containers. If the seeds have been treated, the following instructions shall also be complied with:

(a) a statement indicating that the seed has been treated;

(b) the commonly accepted chemical or abbreviated chemical name of the applied substance; and

(c) if the substance of the chemical used for treatment and present with the seed is harmful to human beings or other vertebrate animals, a caution statement such as "Do not Use for Food; Feed of Oil purpose". The caution for mercurial and similarly toxic substance shall be the word "POISON" which shall be in type size, prominently displayed on the label in red.

XV . Samples and Sampling of Seeds

Soon after completion of the seed processing or after seed treatment as the case may be, the IP and staff of Afg/94/002 jointly shall draw a representative composite sample as per standard procedure followed specified in Seed Testing Manual. The quantity of seed samples so drawn shall be sufficient to provide three samples of the size of submitted sample. The composite sample will be divided into three equal parts, and one shall be sent for analysis to Seed Testing Laboratory, the second part to the seed producer and retain the third part as a guard sample by NPPP(Seed).

XVI. Specification of the Tag

Size, quality, colour, lay out and contents of the certification tag shall be as given bellow.

TAG NO............ KIND...............	AFG/94/002 Class of seed.........
Variety............	
Lot No...........	Date of test.........
	Test result valid up to................. (Provided seed is stored under cool and dry environment)
Name and full address of the IP.	

XVII. Retention of Inspection Records

The IP shall preserve in order all the documents including the guard samples pertaining to inspection of each seed lot for one year from the date of packing.

i Farmer groups have been formed after a full process of discussion with field officers (NPPPs & CLOs) regarding the potential for seed multiplication and in response to expressions of interest in receiving alternative varieties of seed for multiplication. The groups have chosen responsible members to perform the necessary functions and to divide responsibilities. *Shura* ensures groups are genuinely interested and motivated to participate and are not formed purely because of the possibility of UN assistance.

ii. Based on the lessons learned, *Shuras* have developed appropriate mechanisms for revolving funds at community level for the seed multiplication project.

iii At present each group is provided a mixed package of chosen seed. Effort is made that each variety of seed is provided once and it is hoped farmer groups will be able to multiply sufficient to generate improved seed and income to assure food security and to allow them to purchase additional quality seed in future.

iv The sale proceeds of the seed and fertilizer is used as revolving fund. Despite time constraint the project tried in the initial years of the PEACE programme itself to encourage the communities/Shuras themselves to take responsibility for the revolving fund. It has been made clear that the fund will be the responsibility of the Shura to continue supporting quality seed production and supply once FAO/UNDP is no longer involved. However, Shura leaders will be linked to sources of higher classes seed in the next phase of the project to ensure they are able to access seed in the future. Otherwise, the scheme will not be sustainable. Communities are encouraged to hold Shura accountable for the monies they have collected, as this will be used to support other groups with seed. FAO and UNOPS are also monitoring repayments made to groups outside the project and provide technical support and back up within. In reality groups may require FAO to provide the same variety of seed in subsequent seasons as a result of poor security, due to lack of locally available foundation seed or due to greater demand than can be met. The foundation seed and seed from the first crop will be high yielding; however, in the subsequent seasons farmer groups will require repeat injections of foundation seed.

2.1.2. Seed Associations

Seed meetings with Shuras and PEACE partners were arranged to discuss actual requirement of the seed and arrangement of local production to make the programme sustainable. Prior to the commencement of winter and summer crop seasons each year these meetings were conducted. Actual requirements were collected and arrangements for production and distribution of seed were made. More than 17 self-reliant seed producer associations are working in PEACE districts.

2.1.3. Actual Quantity of Seed and Fertilizer Distributed

Though the target of distribution of quality seed and fertilizer per district was only 10 MT and 25 MT respectively but farmers have shown keen interest in procuring more seed of improved varieties. The project was supposed to distribute 170 MT certified

BARELY (HORDEUM VULGARE LINN.)

I. APPLICATION AND AMPLIFICATION OF GENERAL SEED STANDARDS

The General Seed Standards are basic and, together with the following specific standards constitute th standards for certification of barely seed.

II. LAND REQUIREMENTS

Land to be used for seed production of barley shall be free of volunteer plants.

III. FIELD INSPECTION

A minimum of two inspections shall be made between the ear emergence and harvesting of the seed crop.

IV. FIELD STANDARDS

A. General requirements

1. Isolation

Barely seed fields shall be isolated from the contamination shown in column 1 of the Table below by the distance specified in columns 2 and 3 of the said table:

Contaminants	Minimum distance (meters)	
	Foundation	QDS
1	2	3
Field of other varieties	3	3
Field of the same variety not conforming to varietal purity requirements for certification	3	3
Field of barley with infection of loose smut (Ustilago nuda (Jens.) Tostr.) Disease in excess of 0.10% and 0.50% in Foundation and Certified seed respectively.	150	150

B. Specific requirements

Factor	Maximum permitted(%)*	
	Foundation	QDS
Off types	0.050	0.20
**Inseparable other crop plants	0.010	0.050
***Plants affected by seed borne disease	0.10	0.50

* Standards for off types and inseparable other crops shall be met at final inspection before harvesting and for loose smut of barley at any inspection conducted between ear emergence and harvesting.

**Inseparable other crops shall be:
oats, wheat, gram and triticale.
***Seed borne disease shall be:
Loose smut (*Ustilago nuda* (Jens.) Rostr.)

V. SEED STANDARDS

Factor	Standards for each class	
	Foundation	QDS
Pure seed (minimum)	98.0%	98.0%
Inert matter (maximum)	2.0%	2.0%
Other crop seeds (maximum)	10/kg	20/kg
Weed seeds (maximum)	10/kg	20/kg
Germination (minimum)	85%	80%
Moisture (maximum)	12.0%	12.0%
For vapour-proof containers(maximum)	8.0%	8.0%

PADDY (ORYZA SATIVA L.)

I. **APPLICATION AND AMPLIFICATION OF GENERAL SEED CERTIFICATION STANDARDS.**

The General Seed Certification Standards are basic and, together with the following specific standards constitute the standards for certification of paddy seed.

II. **LAND REQUIREMENTS**

Land to be used for seed production of paddy shall be free of volunteer plants.

III. **FIELD INSPECTION**

A minimum of two inspections shall be made from the time the crop approaches flowering until it is ready for harvesting.

IV. **FIELD STANDARDS**

A. General requirements

1. Isolation*

Paddy seed field shall be isolated form the contaminants shown in column 1 of the Table below by the distances specified in columns 2 and 3 of the said Table:

Contaminants	Minimum distance(meters)	
	Foundation	QDS
1	2	3
Fields of other varieties	3	3
Fields of the same variety not conforming to varietal purity requirements for certification	3	3

B. Specific requirements

Factor	Maximum permitted(%)*	
	Foundation	QDS
Off types	0.050	0.20
**Objectionalable weed plants	0.010	0.020

*Standards for off types and objectionable weeds shall be met at the final inspection.
**Objectionable weed shall be:
Wild rice (Oryza sativa L.var.fatua Prain(Syn.O.sativa L.f spontanea Roach.)

V. Seed Standards

Factor	Standards for each class	
	Foundation	QDS
Pure seed(minimum)	98.0%	98.0%
Inert matter(maximum)	2.0%	2.0%
Huskless seeds (maximum)	2.0%	2.0%
Other crop seeds(maximum)	10/kg	20/kg
Total weed seeds(maximum)	10/kg	20/kg
*Objectionable weed seeds(maximum)	2/kg	5/kg
Seeds infected by paddy bunt (Neovossia horrida(Tak.)Padwick & Azmatulla Khan.)(maximum)	0.10% (by number)	0.50% (by number)
Germination(minimum)	80%	75%
Moisture(maximum)	13.0%	13.0%
For vapour-proof containers(maximum)	8.0%	8.0%

*Objectionable weed is the same as given at IV.B above.

WHEAT (Triticum spp.)

I. Application and Amplification of General Seed Certification Standards

The General Seed Certification Standards are basic and,together with the following specific standards constitute the standards for certification of wheat seed.

II. Land Requirements

Land to be used for seed production of wheat shall be free of volunteer plants.

III. Field Inspection

A minimum of two inspections shall be made between the ear emergence and harvesting of the seed crop.

IV. Field Standards

A. General requirements

1. Isolation

Wheat seed fields shall be isolated from the contaminants shown in column 1 of the Table below by the distances specified in columns 2 and 3 of the said Table:

Contaminants	Minimum distance (meters)	
	Foundation	QDS
1	2	3
Fields of other varieties	3	3
Fields of the same variety not conforming to varietal purity requirements for certification	3	3
Field of wheat, triticale and rye with infection of loose smut(Ustilago tirtici(PERS.)Jens.)disease in excess of 0.10% and 0.50% in case of Foundation and Certified seed respectively	150	150

B. Specific requirements

Factor	Maximum permitted(%)*	
	Foundation	QDS
Offtypes	0.050	0.20
**Insuperable other crop plants	0.010	0.050
***Plants affected by seed borne disease	0.10	0.50

*Standards for offtype and inseparable other crops shall be met at the final inspection and for loose smut shall be met at any inspection conducted between ear emergence and harvesting.

Inseparable other crops shall be: barely, oats, triticale and gram.

***Seed borne disease shall be: loose smut(Ustilago tritici(Pers.)Jens.)

V. SEED STANDARDS

Factor	Standards for each class	
	Foundation	QDS
Pure seed(minimum)	98.0%	98.0%
Inert matter(maximum)	2.0%	2.0%
Other crop seeds(maximum)	10/kg	20/kg
Total weed seeds(maximum)	10/kg	20/kg
*Objectionable weed seeds (maximum)	2/kg	5/kg
Seeds infested with Nematode galls of Ear-cockle (Anguina tritici Milne.) and Tundu(Corynebacterium michiganese pv.tritici and A. tritici Milne complex(maximum)	None	None
Germination(minimum)	85%	80%
Moisture(maximum)	12.0%	12.0%
For vapour proof-containers (maximum)	8.0%	8.0%

*Objectionable weeds shall be:wild morning glory(Hirankhuri)(Convolvulus arvensisL.) and Phalaris minor Retz.)

MAIZE(ZEA MAYS L.) COMPOSITES, SYNTHETICS AND OPEN-POLLINATED VARIETIES

I. APPLICATION AND AMPLIFICATION OF GENERAL SEED CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

A. The General Seed Certification Standards are basic and,together with the following speci standards constitute the standards for certification of the seeds of composites, synthetics a open-pollinated varieties of maize.

B. The General Standards are amplified as follows to apply specifically to composites, synthet and open-pollinated varieties of maize:

1. Eligibility requirements for certification

A composite or a synthetic or an open-pollinated variety to be eligible for certification mu be from a source such that its identity may be assured and approved by the Certificati Agency.

2. Seed house or bin inspection

Composites, synthetics and open-pollinated varieties of maize shall be ear-inspected afte maturity by the Certification Agency.

II. LAND REQUIREMENTS

Land to be used for seed production of maize composites, synthetics and open-pollinated varieties shal be free of volunteer plants.

III. FIELD INSPECTION

A minimum of two inspections shall be made in such a way that one is conducted before flowering and the other during flowering.

IV. FIELD STANDARDS

A. General requirements

1. Isolation

The seed fields shall be isolated from the contaminants shown in column 1 of the Table below by the distances specified in columns 2 and 3 of the said Table:

Contaminants	Minimum distance (meters)	
	Foundation	QDS
1	2	3
Fields of other varieties	400	300
Fields of the same variety not conforming to varietal purity requirements for certification and teosinte	400	200

B. Specific requirements

Factor	Maximum permitted (%)	
	Foundation	QDS
Offtype plants that have shed or are shedding pollen at any one inspection during flowering when 5.0% or more of the plants in the seed field have receptive silks	1.0	1.0

V. SEED STANDARDS

A. Seed ears inspected after harvest shall not contain in excess of 1.0% of offtype ears including the ears with off-coloured kernels

Factor	Standards for each class	
	Foundation	QDS
Pure seed(minimum)	98.0%	98.0%
Inert matter(maximum)	2.0%	2.0%
Other crop seeds(maximum)	5/kg	10/kg
Other distinguishable varieties based on kernel colour and texture (maximum)	10/kg	20/kg
Weed seeds(maximum)	None	None
Germination(maximum)	90%	80%
Moisture(maximum)	12.0%	12.0%
For vapour-proof containers(maximum)	8.0%	8.0%

B. Shelling

Shelling of the seed ears is to be done after obtaining approval from the IP.

BLACKGRAM (VIGNA MUNGO(L.)HEPPER)

I. APPLICATION AND AMPLIFICATION OF GENERAL SEED CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

The General Seed Certification Standards are basic and,together with the following specific standa constitute the standards for certification of blackgram seed.

II. LAND REQUIREMENTS

Land to be used for seed production of blackgram shall be free of volunteer plants.

III. FIELD INSPECTION

A minimum of two inspections shall be made,the first before flowering and the second at floweri and fruit stage.

IV. FIELD STANDARDS

A. General requirements

1. Isolation

Blackgram seed fields shall be isolated from the contaminants shown in column 1 of the Table belo by the distances specified in columns 2 and 3 of the said Table.

Contaminants	Minimum distance (meters)	
	Foundation	QDS
1	2	3
Fields of other varieties	10	5
Fields of the same variety not conforming to varietal purity requirements for certification	10	5

B. Specific requirements

Factor	Maximum permitted (%)*	
	Foundation	QDS
Offtypes	0.10	0.20

*Maximum permitted at the final inspection

V. SEED STANDARDS

Factor	Standards for each class	
	Foundation	QDS
Pure seed (minimum)	98.0%	98.0%
Inert matter (maximum)	2.0%	2.0%
Other crop seeds (maximum)	5/kg	10/kg
Weed seeds (maximum)	5/kg	10/kg
Germination including hard seeds (minimum)	75%	65%
Moisture (maximum)	9.0%	9.0%
For vapour-proof containers (maximum)	8.0%	8.0%

seed and 425 MT. chemical fertilizer in 17 distracts but against this the project distributed 751 MT seed and 794.55MT fertilizer. It is 342% and 87% more than the targeted quantity in respect of seed and fertilizer respectively. (Table No-1 and Bar Chart. 1 & 2) It could be considered a good achievement specially considering two long evacuations at crucial period from the crop production point of view.

2.1.4. Distribution of Seed in Northern Region in PEACE Initiative Area

Despite frequent changes in political and military control in the area, looting of most of the inputs and equipment and evacuation of international staff, project could manage to distribute 21.80 MT rice seed in summer 1998 and 77.375 MT wheat seed in PEACE districts in 1998-99 season. The crop condition is good and if situation does not deteriorate further project could procure more than 110 MT wheat seed of three high yielding varieties.

2.1.5. Setting Up of the Local Capacity to Produce Seed

From very beginning of the PEACE Initiative programme efforts were made that the production and distribution of seed should be preponderantly community based, whereas the involvement of the project should be confined to overall supervisory, advisory and fostering activities. Accordingly, from the very first year of the implementation of the project efforts were made to register local farmers as contract seed growers and to encourage them to produce seeds for themselves and other farmers. Despite evacuation at the crucial time of harvesting and procurement of wheat seed in 1998 the project was able to procure through community/Shura members more than 111 MT wheat seed and has a firm plan to procure more than 630 MT in 1999 (Table No. 2). The seed was procured entirely by the community members from local seed producers. The sale proceeds was ploughed back into the revolving fund. The project provided technical backstopping by supplying certification material, mobile seed processing facilities and testing of samples.

The local seed production has become so much popular among the community that in 1998-99 certain communities made advance purchase of seed through an age old practice known as *Salaam*. Under this scheme the community paid total cost of the seed to seed producers in advance i.e., before harvesting of the crop on an agreed price which is most of the time significantly lower than the price at harvesting time. Under this scheme seed producers get payment much before the harvest of the crop and Shuras get the assured quantity at much lower prices. So both are benefited under the scheme. Various communities on purchase of wheat seed have paid following amount in 1997-98 and 1998-99:

Year		Amount Spent on Purchase of Seed From Revolving Fund (US$)
1997-98		24,396.55
1998-99	(A) Salaam	6,230.00
	(B) Provision	54,613.40
TOTAL		85,239.95

This shows that community/Shura set up in each district have become well aware of the importance of seed and with the technical help in future they could set up

BENGAL GRAM (*Cicer arietinum* L.)

I. APPLICATION AND AMPLIFICATION OF GENERAL SEED CERTIFICATION STANDARDS.

The General Seed Certification Standards are basic and, together with the following specific standards constitute the standards for certification of Bengal gram seed.

II. LAND REQUIREMENTS

Land to be used for seed production of Bengal gram shall be free of volunteer plants.

III. FIELD INSPECTION

A minimum of two inspections shall be made from the time the crop approaches flowering until it is ready for harvesting.

IV. FIELD STANDARDS

A. General requirements

1. Isolation

Bengal gram and fields shall be isolated from the contaminants shown in column 1 of the Table below by the distances specified in columns 2 and 3 of the said Table:

Contaminants	Minimum distance(meters)	
	Foundation	QDS
1	2	3
Fields of other varieties	10	5
Fields of the same variety not conforming to varietal purity requirements for certification	10	5

B. Specific requirements

Factor	Maximum permitted(%)*	
	Foundation	QDS
Offtypes	0.10	0.20

*Maximum permitted at final inspection.

V. SEED STANDARDS

Factor	Standards for each class	
	Foundation	QDS
Pure seed(minimum)	98.0%	98.0%
Inert matter(maximum)	2.0%	2.0%
Other crop seeds (maximum)	None	5/kg
Weed seeds(maximum)	None	None
Germination including hard seeds(minimum)	85%	65%
Moisture(maximum)	9.0%	9.0%
For vapour-proof containers (maximum)	8.0%	8.0%

GREENGRAM(*VIGNA RADIATA*(L.)WILCZEK)

I. APPLICATION AND AMPLIFICATION OF GENERAL SEED CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

The General Seed Certification Standards are basic and, together with the following specific standard constitute the standards for certification of greengram seed.

II. LAND REQUIREMENTS

Land to be used for seed production of greengram shall be free of volunteer plants.

III. FIELD INSPECTION

A minimum of two inspections shall be made, the first before flowering and the second at flowering and fruit stage.

IV. FIELD STANDARDS

A. General requirements

1. Isolation

Greengram seed fields shall be isolated the contaminants shown in column 1 of the said Table below by the distances specified in column 2 and 3 of the said Table.

Contaminants	Minimum distance(meter)	
	Foundation	QDS
1	2	3
Fields of other varieties	10	5
Fields of the same variety not conforming to varietal purity requirements for certification	10	5

B. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Factor	Maximum permitted(%)*	
	Foundation	QDS
Offtypes	0.10	0.20
**Plants affected by seed borne diseases	0.10	0.20

*Maximum permitted at the final inspection.
**Seed borne disease shall be: Halo blight(pseudomonas phasiolicola Burk)Dows.)

V. SEED STANDARDS

Factor	Standards for each class	
	Foundation	QDS
Pure seed(minimum)	98.0%	98.0%
Inert matter(maximum)	2.0%	2.0%
Weed seeds(maximum)	5/kg	10/kg
Germination including hard seeds (minimum)	75%	65%
Moisture(maximum)	9.0%	9.0%
For vapour-proof containers (maximum)	8.0%	8.0%

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

ANNEXURE - II

To: As per the distribution list.

From: **Hans C. Brink**
Programme Manager
AFG/96/004
FAO-Crops, Islamabad

Date: May 3, 1999

Subject: **PROCEEDINGS OF THE 7th MEETING OF THE SEED REVIEW GROUP (SRG) HELD ON 29-04-99 AT PESHWAR.**

Please find attached a copy of the proceedings of the 7th meeting of the Seed Review Group (SRG) held on 29-04-99 at Peshawar.

Any comments or suggestions are welcome and will be appreciated if conveyed at the earliest, but before 10th May 1999.

With best regards.

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Dr. Niataqi. NPPP (Hort.), AFG/96/004, Peshawar
Mr. N S Tunwar. STA (Seed), FAO-Crops, Islamabad.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF SEED REVIEW GROUP

List of the participants is at Annex-I.

Mr. Hans C. Brink, Programme Manager, AFG/96/004 was in the chair. He welcomed the participants and expressed his sincere gratitude to the donors and other UN agencies namely WFP, UNDP, UNDCP and UNOPS for participating in the meeting. He also mentioned that observations and advice of Mr. Ewen Macleod, Programme Coordinator, EU have always been very useful in planning and implementation of the seed project and for this Afghan Seed Programme is grateful for his unqualified support. Mr. Brink also pointed out that the seed programme has arrived at a crucial stage after successful completion of the project GCP/AFG/016/EEC and termination of the existing project AFG/96/004 by the end of the year. It had necessitated several changes in the methodology of implementation adopted so far. Therefore, IPs and FAO have to find out an exit policy from the current phase without making to many qualitative and quantitative changes in the on going seed programme and this is not going to be an easy task. Fortunately, Mr. Graham W. Mumby, Seed Marketing Consultant has already conducted a detailed study and discussion with the IPs and other agencies to find out the ways and means to privatize the seed enterprises and gradual reduction in external financial assistance. His report would help in formulation of the new seed strategy based on the new realities.

Mr. Ewen Macleod, Programme Coordinator, EU, Afghanistan summarized his observations at the end of the meeting. He reiterated the importance of the food security in Afghanistan and also supported the views of Mr. Brink on exit policy from the current phase. He mentioned that the project should move to the new areas especially those, which are chronically, food deficit and try to reach farmers to the maximum by increasing the geographical area of the project and availability of quality seed of improved varieties. He pointed out that at present only 1% of the total seed requirement is being produced and, there is considerable gap between requirement and the availability which has to be narrowed down as early as possible. He was also of the considered opinion that food security require more attention of the donors and planners and any project which could help to restore and sustain it deserve support. The Seed Programme is one of them.

On privatization of the seed industry and use of the accumulated sale proceeds he cautioned that investment should be made after a careful consideration with some in built minimum safeguard against the risk of the loss of capital. He supported the convening of a workshop to discuss the proposals prepared by IPs on the basis of recommendations of the Consultant and if any IP is unable to continue under the changed circumstances it would be better to find another IP instead of forcing an organization which is lacking in real conviction. He reminded the participants that in absence of a proper administrative structure and Ministry of Agriculture it is the responsibility of FAO to support the agriculture rehabilitation program in the country.

Dr. Wassimi informed the participants that Crop Improvement has identified at least 4 new varieties Gul-96, Roshan-96, Rana-96 and Bulkh-96 to replace the old winter wheat varieties such as Ataya-85 and Pamir-94. Besides, some location specific varieties such

as Takhar-96 and rainfed varieties Dima-96 have also been identified and were ready for the release in to general cultivation. He mentioned that rust susceptible varieties such as Pak-81, HD-2329 and PS-85 should be excluded from the production plan. For spring wheat varieties such as Bakhtawar-92 (Kauz), PBW etc should be promoted.

Mr. A. R. Chaudhry, Adviser WFP Afghanistan informed that WFP considers the seed programme an important project and has approved 5,000 MT food wheat for exchange under Food-for-seed programme in 1999. The project has been approved to procure summer crop seeds and winter crop seeds. If any IP wants to change composition of the mixed seed it has to obtain the approval of FAO-Crops because it is a technical matter and so long total quantity of the food wheat is not affected WFP has no problem in accepting the technical changes approved by FAO.

Mr. Sayed Aqa Sahibzada, Programme Officer, UNDP and Mr.Faiz Shah, UNOPS explained in detail the role of the Community/Shura and progress made in implementing the community-supported programme in PEACE Initiative areas. They mentioned that some of the schemes have been highly cost-effective and successful and seed production and distribution is one of them.

Mr. N. S. Tunwar, STA (Seed) reported that in 1999 more than 5,609 MT seed (Wheat 4109 MT+ Summer crop seeds 1,500 MT) will be produced, processed, treated, tested and distributed to the farmers of various regions specially in western, southern and eastern regions. Besides, more than 90 MT wheat seed has been kept in buffer stock. The financial assistance received from EU, UNDP, UNHCR and government of Switzerland to produce the total quantity in the country and to make available good quality fertilizer as package has made it possible to achieve such high target and make this a national programme as national in the true sense. He informed that more than 4,573 seed producers in 134 districts participated in seed production and more than 13,566 received the quality wheat seed in the same year. However, the present phase will be soon completed and, therefore, continuation of the seed programme in the present form may not be possible. Therefore, a new implementing strategy is to be devised to avoid any break in the continuity of the seed programme. He mentioned that seed is generally produced in 3 consecutive seasons from breeder, foundation to quality declared seed. Any break in this chain can nullify the positive effect of the seed programme on agricultural rehabilitation in Afghanistan.

Thereafter-regular Agenda Items were taken for discussion:

Item No. 1 Approval of the Proceedings of the 6th Meeting of the SRG held on 6-10-98 at Peshawar.

The Proceedings of the 6th Meeting of the SRG were approved without any change.

Item No. 2 Detail of the Wheat Seed Procurement and Distribution under AFG/CD/H/97053/FFS/FAO. (1997-98)

The correctness of the information relating to the agency-wise target, actual procurement and distribution of processed and treated seed indicated in the agenda item was confirmed by each agency. The same is reproduced below for the record.

Agency (IP)	Target (MT)	QTY Procured (MT)	QTY Distributed After Processing (MT) (Under size & Pro-cessing losses %)	% of Achievement
MCI	425(Wheat 395+Barley 35)	426.61	393.40 (7.78)	100.38
IRC	250	250.00	243.145 (2.74)	100.00
ISRA	375	314.77	297.20 (5.58)	83.94
SCA	200	159.70	153.95 (3.60)	76.98
VARA	350	351.00	288.19 (17.66)	100.29
Comm. Farah	200	200.00	179.00+85 From community stock (9.5)	100.00
NADA, Jalalabad	150	155.90	130.25 (16.45)	100.58
ISE, Mazar	50	00	---	00
ISE, Pulekhumri	100	00	----	00
ISE, Herat	350	350.00	319.87+42.50 from previous buffer stock(8.60)	100.00
ISE, Kabul	100	93.5	85.86 (8.32)	93.50
DA, Kandahar	100	110.00	80.0 (27.27)	110.00
Comm., Kdhr	100	106.00	93.5 (11.79)	106.00
Soladirety, Bamyan	35	12.00	10.50(12.50)	34.28
Comm., Yakawolang	50	28.00	25.77(7.96)	56.00
TOTAL	2835	2557.48		89.93

Beside above, the following quantity of FS and QDS was produced and purchased outside Food-for-seed project by ISE and Shuras respectively.

Agency	Class of Seed	Quantity (MT)
ISE	FS	487
Shura	QDS	111
TOTAL		587

Item No. 3 Production and Procurement of Summer Crop Seeds against Cash and under Food-for-seed Programme. (1998)

The actual status reported by various IPs is indicated below:

S/No	IP/CA	Crop	Targets (MT)	Procurement		Total
				Cash	FFS	
1	IRC	Rice	50	25.00	00	25.000
		Maize	100	50.00	00	50.000
		Pulses	50	10.00	00	10.000
2	ISRA	Rice	100	62.034	62.16	124.194
		Maize	200	154.926	62.587	217.513
		Pulses	50	20.528	25.272	45.800
3	MCI	Rice	50	15.00	15.00	30.000
		Maize	150	60.00	80.00	140.000
		Pulses	100	45.00	45.00	90.000
4	SCA	Rice	60	00	12.00	12.000
		Maize	80	00	50.00	50.000
		Pulses	40	00	0.50	0.500
5	VARA	Rice	00	00	00	000
		Maize	100	38.00	50.00	88.000
		Pulses	100	50.00	50.00	100.000
6	Community	Rice	15	17*	00	17.000
		Maize	50	50*	00	50.000
		Pulses	25	24*	00	24.000
7	ISE/DA	Rice	75	82*	00	82.000
		Maize	15	16*	00	16.000
		Pulses	50	52*	00	52.000
	TOTAL		1460	771.488	452.519	1224.007

* Own production

Some IPs reported that the procurement against Food -for-seed is in progress and final figures will be furnished after the completion of the programme.

community seed production centers. They have entered in a very crucial phase and need technical support for 2-3 years to make the scheme economically viable and sustainable.

2.1.6. Strengthening Community Self-help Capacities in Rural Afghanistan by Facilitating Access of Small farmers to Credit Schemes in Collaboration with UN-OPS.

The principle objectives of this scheme are to help poor farmers to purchase agricultural inputs and other income generating assets. Poverty alleviation is one of the main goals of the PEACE Initiative programme of Afghanistan. Accordingly, the need to address the special needs of the rural poor (farmers and non-farmers) was at heart of the rationale for launching the programme. However, it was never perceived that quality seed production would also alleviate the poverty of land-less population. The seed component was included to improve the food security, especially within underprivileged farmer communities, in a way that are likely to be sustained, subsequently, with a minimum of outside intervention. The seed is an essential input for a farmer and the size of harvest and optimization of the effect of other agricultural inputs such as water, fertilizer, plant protection etc is dependent on the quality of seed. Therefore, it has strong bearing on alleviating the poverty of farmers but in PEACE Initiative districts of western and southern regions seed has helped directly in alleviating of poverty of the land less poor also. It may look strange but it became reality due to joint efforts of FAO and UNOPS.

The revolving fund was linked to the ARRP schemes being implemented by UNOPS. To provide more freedom to beneficiaries for the purchase of agricultural inputs and assets the decision to sanction the loan and amount of loan was left to the Shuras under overall supervision of UNOPS. The preferred mechanism for the functioning of the revolving fund is based on the concept of Shura acting as banker, i.e., providing seed on credit repayable in cash the following season. The cash repaid can then be used to fund the same group with further varieties of seed in a second season or for repeats of the same varieties should this be necessary.

In PEACE Initiative districts FAO and UNOPS have developed complementary but distinct strategic approaches to alleviating poverty. The joint programme has focused on reducing poverty through livelihood improvement of both non-farmers and farmers. This involves identification of target groups of the poor through local *Shura* (Community representatives); analysis of their livelihood systems, participatory diagnosis of the causes of their poverty, and targeted investments aimed at raising them permanently out of poverty. Lack of assets and lack of flows of food and cash, physical weakness, vulnerability, power-lessness etc were given due weightage in selecting the recipients of the loan from the funds derived from the sale proceeds .of seed.

To ensure investment when funds are not required for seed procurement the short-term loan was provided to poor families and community groups. The sale proceeds of seed and fertilizer was given to development committees set up by UNOPS to initiate community development activities and henceforth develop skills and gain experience of handling money directly with a long term goal to develop in to sustainable organizations.
The initiative of providing committees with an initial capital led to an understanding of

Item No. 4 Detail of the Sale Proceeds of the Seed and Fertilizer

It was explained that the programme operated on a cost recovery basis. Both seed and fertilizer were sold to the farmers at a reasonable price. The seed was sold at a price at least10% higher than the grain price in the local market while fertilizer on a small-subsidized price fixed in consultation with ACBAR. The updated information furnished by IPs and CAs mentioned below was authenticated by the concerned IPs and CAs and noted by the participants:

IP/CA	Currency	SALE PROCEEDS			Previous Balance	Total Amount
		Foundation Seed	Quality Declared Seed	Fertilizer		
MCI	Rs.	56,000	3,015,000	2,743,405	16,721,396.0	22,535,801.0
IRC	Rs.	-	2,786,427	1,603,915	12,782,249.0	17,172,591.0
ISRA	Rs.	87,040	2,868,240	764,900	10,204,161.0	13,924,341.0
SCA	Rs.	-	1,644,389	-	10,491,587.0	12,135,976.0
VARA	Rs.	83,916	2,039,821	2,012,717	7,415,329.0	11,551,783.0
NADA	Rs.	-	1,413,000	-	2,227,500.0	3,640,500.0 (2,183,633)*
Comm. Kandahar (Outside PEACE)	Rs.	-	-	-	287,923.0	287,923.0
Comm. Grishk	Rs.	-	-	-	366,822.0	366,822.0
ISE, Heart	Rs.	-	-		161,400.0	161,400.0
	Afs.	-	1,333,395,000	897,525,000	4,246,936,580.0	6,477,856,580.0 (4967310352)**
	US$	12,774	-	-	40,300.5	53,074.5
Comm.Argistan (UNHCR)	US$	-		3,444	-	3,444.0
Comm.Balabulak (UNHCR)	US$	-	-	1,432	-	1,432.0
Comm. Maiwand &Sear (UNHCR)	US$	-	-	3,847	-	3,847.0
ISE, Mazar	US$	-	-	-	-	18,837.0
ISE, Pulekhumry	US$	-	3,300	-	56,350.0	59,650.0
ISE, Kabul	Afs.	97,440,000	132,000,000	126,432,000	715,200,600.0	1,071,072,600.0
ISE, Kandhar	Afs.	-	677,678,000	-	-	677,678,000.0
TOTAL	**US$**					**140,284.5**
	Rs.					**81,777,137.0**
	Afs.					**8,226,607,180.0**

Part of the sale proceeds generated by ISE, Herat was used to construct a seed complex spread over a one-hectare area and consisting of a seed processing building, seed store, seed testing laboratory and administrative block. The processing facility and laboratory will be used to process and test seeds produced by both formal and informal sectors.

* Actual balance after repair of farm machinery and equipment and purchase of Urea fertilizer for seed crop 1999.

** Actual balance after expenditure incurred on building and seed production.

The ISE Mazar, Pulekhumri and Herat and also communities namely Kandahar, Grishk, Maroof, Argistan, Maiwand and Garmseer have deposited surplus sale proceeds in ANZ Grindlays Bank, Islamabad in US Dollars for safe keeping. The amount is deposited in AC No.1020238260051.

Item No. 5 Status of the Winter Crop Seed Production Plan (1998-99)

The information contained in the Agenda Item was confirmed by the concerned IPs and WFP. It was also clarified that Food-for-seed Project AFG/CD/99035/FFS/FAO has already been approved by the WFP and will be operative from June 1999 for procurement of wheat seed as shown in the Table below:

Implementing Partners (IPs)	Region	Total Qty. of wheat seed to be procured (MT)	Month-wise food grain requirement (MT)			
			June 99	July 99	August 99	Total
IRC	Khost	250	150	100	62.5	312.5
ISRA	Kunar, Kbl & Logar	350	200	150	87.5	437.5
MCI	Kandahar	330	150	150	112.5	412.5
SCA	Jalalabad and Ghazni	200	100	100	50.0	250.0
VARA	Nimroz	400	200	200	100.0	500.0
ISC, Kabul	Kabul	150	0	100	87.5	187.5
ISC, Heart	Heart	250	100	100	112.5	312.5
ISC, Pulekhumri	Pulekhumri	50	0	50	12.5	62.5
ISC, Kandahar	Kandahar	150	50	100	37.5	187.5
SOLIDARITES	Bamyan	200	0	100	150.0	250.0
Community/FAO	Bamyan	100	0	50	75.0	125.0
Community/FAO	Yakowlang	300	0	175	200.0	375.0
Community/FAO	Farah	50	12.5	25	25.0	62.5
Community/FAO	Takhar	149	0	86.25	100.0	186.25
Community/ FAO/OPS	Kesham/Faizabad	25	0	0	31.25	31.25
FAO/NADA	Jalalabad	150	50	100	37.5	187.5
Total		3104	1012.5	1586.25	1281.25	3880.00

Beside above, more than 630 MT QDS will be purchased by Shuras against cash using revolving fund in PEACE districts and ISE is also likely to produce more than 375 MT foundation seed. The detail of the same is given below:

Agency	Class of Seed	Quantity (MT)
ISE	FS'	375
Shura	QDS	630
TOTAL		1005

Thus, more than 4,109 MT descript seed of assured quality wheat seed of improved varieties will be produced in 1998-99 inside the country by Afghan farmers. This will be available for distribution in 1999-00 in various regions of the country.

Item No. 6 Summer Crop Seed Production Plan (1999)

The plan furnished by IPs was discussed. Taking into consideration the availability of FS and performance of different varieties, a draft national plan was prepared. The same agency-wise is tabulated below:

Agency-Wise QDS Production Target of Summer Crops (1999)

Crop/Variety	SCA	MCI	VARA	IRC	ISRA	PEACE	ISE
MAIZE							
Sarhad Yellow	30	200	12	10	25	5	100
Ganesh	00	00			00	00	00
Pahari	00	00		30	00	00	00
Naviyot	00	00	30		70	10	25
Ageti-76	00	00		75	50	00	00
Azam	00	00			00	00	00
Shaheen	30	50	8		45	00	00
EV-II	00	00		15	40	00	00
RICE							
B-385	10	40			40	3	10
JPO-5		10		40	10	2	00
Garma Bara						00	00
Swat-1					30	00	00
SW-2					30	00	00
Surkh Taveel	5					00	00
Surkh Mutavaset						00	00
RP-1670	15					00	10
New Cultivars (Identified by CI)						00	50
GREEN GRAM							
Nayab-92	10	50	15	25	60	25	50
Local				5			
BLACK GRAM							
PARC	00	00		00	00	5	5
Local	00	50	35.00	00			00
TOTAL	100	400	100.00	200	400	50	250

There is plan to produce more than 1,500 MT summer crop seed in 1999 for distribution in 2000. At this stage it is difficult to specify the exact procedure of procurement, distribution and availability of fertilizer and other inputs because it will mainly depend on the new programme to be approved for 2000 and beyond. The present programme life

is only up to 31-12-99. IPs were informed of the changes might occur in future and be prepared to face them. However, there is every likely hood that revolving fund will be available for procurement and technical support of FAO-Crops will also be available during field inspection.

Item No. 7 Status of the implementation of seed related activities in various PEACE Initiative districts.

The information contained in the Agenda Notes with regard to progress made in PEACE Initiative districts was noted by the participants with satisfaction and same is annexed as Annexure-II.

Item No. 8 Distribution of Wheat Seed and Fertilizer in Areas of Potential Return of Farmer Returnees under Sub Project 98/AR/AFG/RP/370 (g$)

The successful cooperation between FAO-Crops and UNHCR, Afghanistan to facilitate return and settlement of farmer returnees through project " Supply of Wheat Seed of Improved Varieties through local production with matching quantity of Fertilizer was explained to the participants. The SRG was of the opinion that usually due to sudden increase in population a shortfall in food supplies at micro level might occur. Such situation could be averted by increase in food production locally. If quality seeds of improved varieties are made available to the returnees and resident farmers in sufficient quantity along with matching quantity of fertilizer the increase in crop yield will be substantial. This is because seed security and food security comes one after another in the sequence of an agricultural rehabilitation programme. Accordingly, seed security and food self-sufficiency reinforce each other.

Under the project following quantity of seed and fertilizer was distributed.

District	Qty. of Seed Distributed (MT)	Qty. of Fertiliser Distributed (MT)	No. of Returnee Farmers Received Inputs
ARGISTAN	23.00	23.00	230
MEWAND (Kandahar)	12.00	12.00	120
GARM SEER	15.00	15.00	150
Engile	10.00	10.00	100
Balbulak	10.00	10.00	100
Khawa	10.00	10.00	153
Khake Jabbar	4.00 (4.00)*	6.00 (4.00)*	33
Kargai	10.00	10.00	89
Tezin	20.10 (10.00)*	20.00 (10.00)*	202
Azara	20.00 (10.00)*	20.00 (10.00)*	228
Danda Patan	20.00	19.80	252
Gombat	2.00	2.00	20
TOTAL	180.10	181.80	1677

* To be distributed in Spring Season

Item No. 9 Wheat Seed and Fertilizer Distributed under Poppy Elimination Programme in Southern Region

Mr. Khuhel Nasrie, UNDCP, Afghanistan informed the SRG that surveys are in progress and impact of the project will be known very soon. The SRG noted the quantity of seed and fertilizer distributed to the farmers to discourage them to grow Poppy. The following quantity of the seed and fertilizer has been distributed.

DETAIL OF WHEAT SEED AND FERTILIZER DISTRIBUTION BY FAO-CROPS UNDER UNDCP PROGRAMME IN 1998-99 IN SOUTHERN REGION						
DISTRICT	Wheat Seed (MT)			Fertilizer (MT)		
	Bakhtawar-92	PS-85	Total	Urea	DAP	Total
ARGHANDAB	10	2.5	12.5	6.25	6.25	12.5
PANJWAI	10	2.5	12.5	6.25	6.25	12.5
TOTAL	20	5.0	25.0	12.50	12.50	25.0

Item No. 10 Privatization of Seed Production and Marketing Activities

The consultant summarized the findings and recommendations from his draft report for the meeting. It was noted that in-country production has been successful and targets have been exceeded. FAO are involved at all levels and have assumed the role of the state in setting up crop improvement, BS and FS production and seed testing. It is important that support is continued but responsibilities should be transferred as soon as possible. During the earlier phases of the project the primary object was to reintroduce quality seed of improved varieties and restart in-country production. Now the activities must have a greater commercial orientation if sustainable production systems are to be established. This is particularly the case for the NGOs if they are to privatize their seed activities but it is equally important to demonstrate that the ISE units can survive on the sale of FS and QDS. Attention must also be given to the quality of seed circulating locally in the markets and between farmers as in total terms more than 95% of seed requirements will continue to be derived from the informal sector. Awareness of the value of good seed of improved varieties must be created among the farmers.

The NGOs should now adopt a more commercial approach to production and distribution of seed since procurement costs must be controlled and sales revenue increased. The change over to procurement on a cash basis will need to take place, as WFP food-for-grain is likely to go to new areas. Although there is a strong and unsatisfied market for wheat seed, summer crop seed sometimes remains unsold due to localized situations. NGOs must therefore think about demand, size of markets and sales when planning production. Price is a sensitive issue when many people cannot afford to buy seed and fertilizer. However the project has succeeded in establishing precise levels of market price -10% for fertilizer and +10% for seed. Price needs to reflect the value of seed and the cost associated with preparing seed for sale. Figures prepared by the consultant for wheat demonstrated that based on current procurement

and pricing policy there was no margin to cover expenses and overheads without some support.

In preparing proposals the NGOs should analyze all costs and allocate costs to activity headings. Income, cost of seed and expenses should be presented in the form of a profit/loss statement to show the total picture of the proposed enterprise. The consultant regretted that such an analysis and presentation was not available but in discussion with the individual NGOs a business planning had been discussed. ISRA and VARA are actively reworking their proposals accordingly. US$ 1.5+M is now held in the special NGO accounts, which will be used to support the privatization process. The funds will have to cover both investment and working capital requirements but will be quickly run down if the new enterprises are not shown to be viable. Therefore the quality of analysis and proposal preparation must be high. It was proposed that various enterprise options were coasted out since the continuation of current activity may not be sustainable. Indeed it may be necessary to look at much smaller scale, low cost operations involving the contract farmers and build up scale more gradually when FAO direct financial support is withdrawn.

The meeting accepted the proposal that a local business consultant should be engaged to be available to the NGOs to assist in this process and that proposals based on different options must be ready for final decisions to be taken by the next SRG meeting. The future shape of the project should also be known at this time. The consultant also suggested that NGOs, and indeed the project, should be more concerned with the economics of production while preparing for the new phase of the project and that the NGOs should treat their seed activities as profit centers.

The meeting closed at 13.15.

Annex-I

List of the Participants of the Seventh SRG Meeting held at Peshawar on 29 April 1999		
S. No.	Name and Designation	Organization
1.	Mr. Hans C. Brink, Programme Manager	FAO Crops, AFG/96/004, Islamabad
2.	Mr. Ewen Macleod, Programme Coordinator	European Commission, Peshawar
3.	Mr. Grahm W. Mumby, Seed Consultant	FAO Crops, AFG/96/004, Islamabad
4.	Mr. A. R. Chowdhury	WFP Afghanistan, Islamabad
5.	Mr. S. A. Sahibzada, Programme Officer	UNDP Afghanistan, Islamabad
6.	Mr. Fiaz Shah, Programme Officer	UNOPS Afghanistan, Islamabad
7.	Mr. S. Noora-Jan, Project Manager	ISRA
8.	Mr. Abdul Mutalib, Project Manager	ISRA, Kabul
9.	Dr. Nasrat Wassimi, STA (Breeder)	FAO Crops, AFG/96/004, Peshawar
10.	Mr. Ziauddin Paiman, NPPP (Seed)	AFG/96/004, FAO Crops, Herat
11.	Mr. Najmuddin Mojadedi, Director	VARA, Quetta
12.	Mr. Mohammed Lal, Seed Manager	MCI, Quetta
13.	Mr. Abdul Rahim Shinwari, NPPP (Seed)	AFG/96/004, FAO Crops, Kandahar
14.	Mr. Mohammed Morad, NPPP (Agronomy)	AFG/96/004, FAO Crops, Kandahar
15.	Mr. Eyob Getachew	IRC, Peshawar
16.	Mr. Zandi Gul Zamani,	IRC/APP
17.	Mr. Mohammed Sharif, Asstt. Manager	IRC/ARP
18.	Mr. Sayed Mahboob, NPPP (Seed)	AFG/96/004, FAO Crops, Kabul
19.	Mr. Laurent Gilet, Coordinator	SOLIDARITES, Peshawar
20.	Mr. Khuhel Nasrie	UNDCP
21.	Mr. Khan Ghulam, Coordinator	ISRA
22.	Mr. A. Aziz	ISRA
23.	Mr. Abdul Hakim Morad	SCA
24.	Mr. Daud S. Bhati, Adminstrative Officer	AFG/96/004, FAO Crops, Islamabad
25.	Mr. P. M. Shrestha, Agronomist	AFG/96/004, FAO Crops, Islamabad
26.	Mr. N. S. Tunwar, STA (Seed)	AFG/96/004, FAO Crops, Islamabad

Status of the implementation of seed related activities in various PEACE Initiative districts.

The major responsibility of the AFG/96/004 is to implement the programme in PEACE Initiative districts to achieve specified objectives. Seed component of the programme has been assigned a major responsibility to increase the food production and empowerment of the community in conjunction with other components of the project. To measure the impact of various activities several impact indicators were specified in the Prodoc. Through this Item effort has been made to analyze the achievements and outputs vis-a-vis impact indicators and indicative targets.

Major Seed Activities specified in the Prodoc:

Quality seed for the major field crops supplied through community and district based production

Seed production of adapted commercial cultivars for the major food crops through private sector, community and grower associations.

Facilitate access of small farmers to credit schemes, in collaboration with the "Strengthening Community Self-help Capacities in Rural Afghanistan" project.

Impact Indicator	Impact Verifiers	Indicative Targets
Community awareness	Number of community revolving funds setup and functional	All staff and 20,000 farmers
Self-reliance association	Number of fully privatized or self reliant community seed producers.	1 producer per district
	Supply of locally produced quality seed	Sufficient to meet demand in the districts through local producers' groups.

Equipment and Materials to be made available.

* 25 metric tonnes of Fertilizer per district will be provided and used to set up a community revolving fund.

  10 MT of certified seed will be provided to community revolving fund.

* Two tractors will be provided for each district cluster for setting up a community tractor hire scheme.

* Mobile seed cleaners for community/cooperative seed business

Progress made till date:

1. Seed Production through Communities/Shura in PEACE Initiative district:

Seed production was taken up in 10 functional PEACE Initiative districts of western and southern regions in the very first year itself while programme was further expended in the 5 more districts adopted as second track districts in the second year. The seed in PEACE Initiative districts is directly produced through community seed multiplication groups. The project produces improved seed that is available for distribution to farmers in the project areas. It is based on the expected number of functioning groups in each year. Experienced farmer groups participating in the seed development project are provided seed of improved varieties for multiplication.

i Farmer groups have been formed after a full process of discussion with field officers (NPPPs & CLOs) regarding the potential for seed multiplication and in response to expressions of interest in receiving alternative varieties of seed for multiplication. The groups have chosen responsible members to perform the necessary functions and to divide responsibilities. *Shura* ensures groups are genuinely interested and motivated to participate and are not formed purely because of the possibility of UN assistance.

ii. Based on the lessons learned, *Shuras* have developed appropriate mechanisms for revolving funds at community level for the seed multiplication project.

iii At present each group is provided a mixed package of chosen seed. Effort is made that each variety of seed is provided once and it is hoped farmer groups will be able to multiply sufficient to generate improved seed and income to assure food security and to allow them to purchase additional quality seed in future.

iv The sale proceeds of the seed and fertilizer is used as revolving fund. Despite time constraint the project tried in the initial years of the PEACE programme itself to encourage the communities/Shuras themselves to take responsibility for the revolving fund. It has been made clear that the fund will be the responsibility of the Shura to continue supporting quality seed production and supply once FAO/UNDP is no longer involved. However, Shura leaders will be linked to sources of higher classes seed in the next phase of the project to ensure they are able to access seed in the future. Otherwise, the scheme will not be sustainable. Communities are encouraged to hold Shura accountable for the monies they have collected, as this will be used to support other groups with seed. FAO and UNOPS are also monitoring repayments made to groups outside the project and provide technical support and back up within. In reality groups may require FAO to provide the same variety of seed in subsequent seasons as a result of poor security, due to lack of locally available foundation seed or due to greater demand than can be met. The foundation seed and seed from the first crop will be high yielding: however, in the subsequent seasons farmer groups will require repeat injections of foundation seed.

Number of Seed Associations

Seed meetings with Shuras and PEACE partners were arranged to discuss actual requirement of the seed and arrangement of local production to make the programme sustainable. Prior to the commencement of winter and summer crop seasons each year these meetings were conducted. Actual requirements were collected and arrangements for production and distribution of seed were made. More than 17 self-reliant producer associations are working in PEACE districts.

Actual Quantity of Seed and Fertilizer Distributed

Though the target of distribution of quality seed and fertilizer per district was only 10 MT and 25 MT respectively but farmers have shown keen interest in procuring more seed of improved varieties. The following Table will show the district-wise seed and fertilizer distribution in 1997-98 and 1998-99.

Table-1

Detail of the Distribution of Wheat Seed and Fertilizer in Functional PEACE Initiative Districts (1997-98 and 1998-99).

District	Qty. of Input Distributed (MT)		No. of Recipient Farmers
	Wheat Seed	Fertilizer (DAP + Urea)	
Bala Bulak	80.92	80.95	798
Khake-I-Safed	38.271	38.25	327
Farah	158.89	158.95	1135
Bakwa	61.25	61.60	267
Shindand	111.50	110.65	1430
Dand	51.55	.52.00	543
Daman	35.50	35.60	194
Arghandab	21.00	21.10	210
Panjwai	44.25	44.70	394
Shiga	9.00	9.00	86
*Keshm++	0.75	0.75	30
*Jalrez	1.50	1.50	20
*Yakawlang	27.50	55.00	377
*Bamyan	21.00	21.00	402
*Panjao	8.50	8.50	108
*Azra	40.0	45.0	330
*Tezin	40.10	50.0	307
TOTAL	751.481	794.55	6958

* Track two district. ++ Seed activities started only in spring 1999.

The perusal of the above will show that in 17 PEACE Initiative districts the project was supposed to distribute 170 MT certified seed and 425 MT. chemical fertilizer but against this the project distributed 751 MT seed and 794.55MT fertilizer. It is 342% and 87% more than the targeted quantity in respect of seed and fertilizer respectively. It could be considered a good achievement specially considering two long evacuations at crucial period from crop production point of view.

the potential of committees effective utilization of resources, ensuring committees commitment to serve the most disadvantaged, widow's and poorest of the poor in a sustainable manners.

Many of the committees invested the initial capital in to provision of credit to the disadvantaged widows and land-less. Some committees have reinvested the money through the existing *Batulmals*, (village revolving funds), which not only proved to be a sustainable investment but it also helped strengthen *Batulmals* while providing income earning opportunities to the most needy and unprivileged. More than US $ 142,276.75 and US $ 31,640.15 were made available farmers and landless poor to purchase inputs respectively. These included purchase of seed, fertilizer, pesticide, tractors, sheep, sewing machines and various other income generating schemes (Table No-3 & 4 and Pie chart No-1).

2.1.6. Setting up Community Tractor hire Scheme.

Four schemes have so far been successfully set up jointly by FAO-Crops and UNOPS. Tractor Pilot Project, Khake-I-Safed has completed one year and results are very encouraging. Other three schemes namely Panjwai, Shindand and Balabuluk are new and will be fully functional in coming months. The community has shown great interest and it is hoped that these will also be successful.

The Tractor scheme has been formed to serve two main objectives namely farm operations and social obligations.

The scheme has already started performing farm operations such as custom ploughing, wheat thrashing, irrigation etc. and poor farmers of the area who were not able to hire from private sector have been benefited by the scheme. The scheme also helped to bring down and stabilise the charges imposed by private sector for various services. This has helped all farmers of the area irrespective they were able to hire services of community tractors or not. Similarly UN OPS has framed a scheme under which part of the earnings of the tractor project will be made available to the community to schools, health and other social services to improve the quality of the life of the poor people. The assets created under the scheme also visible to common members of the community and it gives a sense of stability and permanency to the common man and increases his sense of participation in the schemes launched under PEACE Initiative programme. The present status of the scheme is given in Table No 5.

3. Part-II

3.1. National Seed Programme

While seed programme in PEACE Initiative districts is designed to increase the food production and empowerment of the community in conjunction with other components of the project, the national programme is designed to bring food security at national level so that benefit of the increased food production could reach to the all strata of the society. To meet this objective the National Seed Programme has four major activities:

Distribution of Seed in North

Despite frequent changes in political and military control in the area, looting of most of the inputs and equipments and evacuation of international staff project could manage to distribute 21.80 MT rice seed in summer 1998 and 77.375 MT wheat seed in PEACE districts in 1998-99 season. The crop condition is good and if situation does not deteriorate further project could procure more than 110 MT wheat seed of three high yielding varieties.

2. Setting up of local capacity to produce seed

From very beginning of the PEACE Initiative programme efforts were made that the production and distribution of seed should be preponderantly community based, whereas the involvement of the project should be confined to overall supervisory, advisory and fostering activities. Accordingly, from the very first year of the implementation of the project efforts were made to register local farmers as contract seed growers and to encourage them to produce seeds for themselves and other farmers. Despite evacuation at the crucial time of harvesting and procurement of wheat seed in 1998 the project was able to procure through community/Shura members more than 111 MT wheat seed and has a firm plan to procure more than 630 MT in 1999. The seed was procured entirely by the community members from local seed producers. The sale proceeds was ploughed back into the revolving fund. The project provided technical backstopping by supplying certification material, mobile seed processing facilities and testing of samples.

The local seed production has become so much popular among the community that in 1998-99 certain communities made advance purchase of seed through an age old practice known as *Salaam*. Under this scheme the community paid total cost of the seed to seed producers in advance i.e., before harvesting of the crop on an agreed price which is most of the time significantly lower than the price at harvesting time. Under this scheme seed producers get payment much before the harvest of the crop and Shuras get the assured quantity at much lower prices. So both are benefited under the scheme. Following amount has been paid by various communities on purchase of wheat seed in 1997-98 and 1998-99:

Year		Amount Spent on Purchase of Seed From Revolving Fund (US$)
1997-98		24,396.55
1998-99	(A) Salaam	6,230.00
	(B) Provision	54,613.40
TOTAL		85,239.95

This shows that community/Shura set up in each district have become well aware of the importance of seed and with the technical help in future they could set up community seed production centers. They have entered in a very crucial phase and need technical support for 2-3 years to make the scheme economically viable and Sustainable.

District-wise quantity of seed to be procured by Shura is as follows:

S.No.	PEACE Districts	Qty of Wheat seed to be Procured (MT)
1.	Argandab	50
2.	Dand	60
3.	Panjwai	60
4.	Daman	35
5.	Shega	25
6.	Shindad	100
7.	Balabulak	50
8.	Khake-I-Safed	50
9.	Frah Center Including PusthoRud	130
10.	Bakwa	70
	Total	630

3. **Facilitate access of small farmers to credit schemes, in collaboration with the "Strengthening Community self-help Capacities in Rural Afghanistan" project.**

The principle objectives of this scheme are to help poor farmers to purchase agricultural inputs and other income generating assets. Poverty alleviation is one of the main goals of the PEACE Initiative programme of Afghanistan. Accordingly, the need to address the special needs of the rural poor (farmers and non-farmers) was at heart of the rationale for launching the programme. However, it was never perceived that quality seed production would alleviate the poverty of land-less population. The seed component was included to improve the food security, especially within underprivileged farmer communities, in a way that are likely to be sustained, subsequently, with a minimum of outside intervention. The seed is an essential input for a farmer and the size of harvest and optimization of the effect of other agricultural inputs such as water, fertilizer, plant protection etc is dependent on the quality of seed. Therefore, it has strong bearing on alleviating the poverty of farmers but in PEACE Initiative districts of western and southern regions seed has helped directly in alleviating of poverty of the land less poor also.

The revolving fund was linked to the ARRP schemes being implemented by UNOPS. To provide more freedom to beneficiaries for the purchase of agricultural inputs and assets the decision to sanction the loan and amount of loan was left to the Shuras under overall supervision of UNOPS. The preferred mechanism for the functioning of the revolving fund is based on the concept of Shura acting as banker, i.e., providing seed on credit repayable in cash the following season. The cash repaid can then be used to fund the same group with further varieties of seed in a second season or for repeats of the same varieties should this be necessary.

In PEACE Initiative districts FAO and UNOPS have developed complementary but distinct strategic approaches to alleviating poverty. The joint programme has focused on reducing poverty through livelihood improvement of both non-farmers and farmers. This involves identification of target groups of the poor through local *Shura* (Community representatives); analysis of their livelihood systems, participatory diagnosis of the causes of their poverty, and targeted investments aimed at raising them permanently out of poverty. Lack of assets and lack of flows of food and cash, physical weakness, vulnerability, power lessness etc were given due weightage in selecting the recipients of the loan from the funds derived from the sale proceeds .of seed.

To ensure investment when funds are not required for seed procurement the short-term loan was provided to poor families and community groups. The sale proceeds of seed and fertilizer was given to development committees set up by UNOPS to initiate community development activities and henceforth develop skills and gain experience of handling money directly with a long term goal to develop in to sustainable organizations.

The initiative of providing committees with an initial capital led to an understanding of the potential of committees effective utilization of resources, ensuring committees commitment to serve the most disadvantaged, widow's and poorest of the poor in a sustainable manners.

Many of the committees invested the initial capital in to provision of credit to the disadvantaged widows and land-less. Some committees have reinvested the money through the existing *Batulmals*, (village revolving funds), which not only proved to be a sustainable investment but it also helped strengthen *Batulmals* while providing income earning opportunities to the most needy and unprivileged.

Following is the detail of the utilization of revolving fund for agricultural and non agricultural activities:

Table-2

Use of Sale Proceeds for Financing Agricultural Activities.

S.No	District	Activity / Purpose	Amount of Loan in Afs & US $
1.	Panjwai	Procurement of Chemical Fertilizer.	Afs.80,000,000 (US.$.2787.45)
2.	Dand	Purchase of four insecticide pesticide sprayers.	Afs.18,000,000 (US.$.627.17)
3.	Arghandab	Purchase of Wheat seed.	Afs.7,777,778 (US.$.271.00)
		Purchase of 12.5 MT. Urea.	Afs.90,000,000 (US.$.3135.88)
		Purchase of 2.5 MT. DAP.	Afs.22,800,00 (US.$.794.42
4.	Daman	Wheat seed.	Pak.Rs.69,00 (US.$.1500)
		Fertilizer.	Pak.Rs.69,00 (US.$.1500)
5.	Shindand	Tractor & Farm equipments.	Afs.780,593,000 (US.$.27198.36)
		Purchase of wheat seed.	Afs.139,165,000 (US.$.4848.95)
		Advance payment/provision for purchase of wheat seed for 1999.	US.$.5355.00
6.	Balablok	Tractor & its equipment.	Afs.528,456,000 (US.$.18413)
		Advance payment/provision for purchase of wheat seed for 1999.	US.$.12777.44
		Purchase of wheat seed.	Afs. 30,813,600 (US.$1073.64)
7.	Bakwa	Purchase of wheat seed.	Afs.139,375,000 (Us.$.4856.27)
		Advance payment/provision for purchase of wheat seed for 1999.	US.$.10600
8.	Khak-e-Safeed	Advance payment/provision for purchase of wheat seed for 1999.	US.$.6150
9	Frah (Pusht-E-Rud)	Purchase of 50 MT wheat seed.	Afs 340,000,000 (US$ 11,846.69)
		Advance payment/provision for purchase of wheat seed for 1999.	US$ 25,990.96 ($10811+$ 8950 +Afs178,800,000)
		Credit to Poor Farmers	Afs 73,200,000 (US$2,550.52)
	Total		US.$.142,276.85

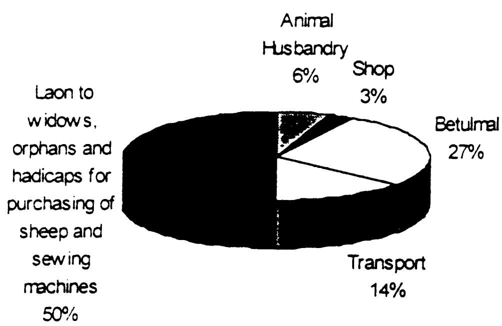
Table-3

Use of Sale Proceeds for financing non-Agricultural Activities.

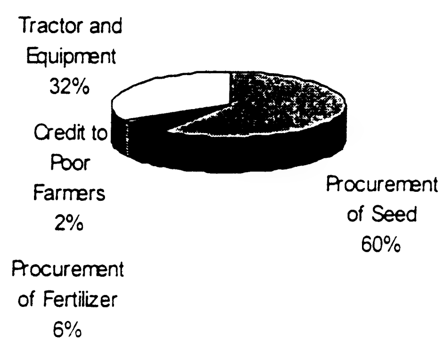
S No	District	Group	Purpose	Amount of Loan (Afs)/US$
1	Arghandab	Widows	To Purchase 63 Sheep	Afs. 4,000,000.00 (US$ 139.37)
2	Do	Do	To Purchase 45 Sewing Machines	Afs. 5,650,000.00 (US$ 196.86)
3	Pajwai	Widows and Orphans	For Income generating skill	Afs. 179,250,000 (US$ 6,245.64)
4	Do	EC Members	Study Tour cum Training	Afs. 750,000 (US$ 26.13)
5	Do	Community	To purchase Mini bus	Afs. 131,370,000 (US$ 4,577.35)
6	Daman	Community	To improve Animal Husbandry	Afs. 50,113,800 (US$ 1,746.12)
7	Do	Community	To open Village Shops	Afs. 26,376,000 (US$ 919.02)
8	Dand	Widows and Land-less Orphans	To purchase sheep and other income generating activities.	Afs. 263,200,000 (US$ 9,170.73)
9	Various	Community	Credit through *Betulmal* Scheme	Afs. 247,363,300 (US$ 8,618.93)
TOTAL				Afs. 908,073,100.00 (US$.31,640.15)

Investment at a glance:

Investment on Non-Agricultural Activities (US$ 31,640)



Investment on Agricultural Activities (US$ 142,276.85)



4. Setting up Community Tractor hire Scheme.

Four schemes have so far been successfully set up jointly by FAO-Crops and UNOPS. Tractor Pilot Project, Khake-I-Safed has completed one year and results are very encouraging. Other three schemes namely Panjwai, Shindand and Balabulak are new and will be fully functional in coming months. The community has shown great interest and it is hoped that these will also be successful.

The Tractor scheme has been formed to serve two main objectives namely.
farm operations and social obligations.

The scheme has already started performing farm operations such as custom ploughing, wheat thrashing, irrigation etc. and poor farmers of the area who were not able to hire from private sector have been benefited by the scheme. The tractor also helped to bring down and stabilise the charges imposed by private sector for various services. This has helped all farmers of the area irrespective they were able to hire services of community tractor or not. Similarly UN OPS has framed a scheme under which part of the earnings of the tractor project will be made available to the community to set up or run schools, health and other social services to improve the quality of the life of the poor people. The assets created under the scheme also visible to common members of the community and it gives a sense of stability and permanency to the common man and it increases his sense of participation in the schemes launched under PEACE Initiative programme.

The present status of the scheme is as follows:

Detail of the income, expenditure and beneficiaries of the tractor scheme.

S. No.	Details	Khak-e-Safed	Shindand	Balabuluk
1	Tractor starting project date	8 November 1997	16 January 1998	21 July 1998
2	No. of drivers	5	2	2
3	No. of other staff	2	None	(Accountant) 1
4	Total gross income this date (Afs)	349,055,000	59,150,000	18,840,000
5	Total expenditure (Afs)	240,183,500	32,167,000	17,942,000
6	Net income (Afs)	108,871,500	26,983,000	898,000
7	No. of farmers benefited	1500	75	16
8	No. of tractors	5	2	4

Annex-III. List of Equipment and Supplies Procured (1/5/1998 to 30/4/1999)

S. No.	PR/FPO No. Date	Equipment/Supplies	Amount US $
1	398956/398957- (1C55115) 28/8/1998	DAP 1250 MT.	460,000
2	Remnant Funds 398951/ 398952 (1C54949) and (1C54950 for Inspection)	DAP 310 MT. Urea 310 MT.	186,920
3	Remnant Funds 398951/ 398952 (1C54942) and (1C54944 for Inspection)	DAP 210 MT. Urea 210 MT.	111,260
4	398955 (1C55027) 17/6/1998	Vitavax-200B 4 MT.	67,640
5	5 – 018484 5/6/1998	120 Screens of different size.	3,360
6	5 – 018485 30/6/1998	Wheat Seed PBW-343 5 MT.	IR. 75,000
7	5 – 018486 8/7/1998	Toshiba 4570 Plain Paper Copier – 1 / Toshiba Notebook Computer Model 320	16,800
8	5 – 018487 8/7/1998	HF Mobile Station (Codan 9360)- 4 /Option TXE- 4	AUD 24,168.86
9	5- 018488 8/7/1998	Motorola GP300 Handie Talkie- 15 Spare Battery- 15 Battery Charger- 15	6,330
10	5- 018489 6/8/1998	Wheat Seed HD 2285- 5 MT.	IR. 75,000
11	5- 018490 8/9/1998	Thiram 75-DS- 5MT.	12,250

1) Execution at national level;
2) Support agricultural rehabilitation;
3) Production of seed inside the country; and
4) Devise means to achieve the higher crop productivity per unit area.

3.1.1. Seed Production at National Level

Afghanistan is a vast country and every province has within itself large areas with varying climatic and soil conditions. Area required for seed production is only a small part of the area under cultivation. Thus, area required for seed production from the point of view of reliability, quality of seed, cost of production, etc., is available within each province. If programme could not be operated in each province this is not due to any natural deficiencies or defects but due to either the insufficiency of funds and inputs or due to poor security reasons. Despite all problems program could establish six regional offices with permanent presence of NPPPs and other supporting staff and eighteen seed production and processing units. Similarly, fourteen foundation seed farms with total 3,259.0 ha. area and 576.6 ha improved area area have been developed to produce breeder and foundation seed under direct supervision of the project. (Table No-6 & Map No-1) In 1998 quality declared wheat seed was produced in 86 districts through 2,632 contract seed producers and made available to more than 13,656 farmers in different regions. Similarly, summer crop seeds were produced in 50 districts of different regions through 1,941 seed growers. Though it is not necessary to produce seed in each province but under present security situation and difficulty in transportation of seed from one place to another the doctrine of self-sufficiency in each province is being pursued.

3.1.2. In-country Seed Production

In the early years of emergency programme seeds of self/open pollinated varieties of wheat, maize, rice, barley and pulses were distributed through donor sponsored relief programme. The seeds were procured from neighboring countries and distributed through several IPs/ NGOs. In the beginning there was limited interest in the production of seed inside the country and its distribution on commercial scale. Gradually emergency phase was converted into development phase. This encouraged FAO -Crops to strengthen domestic seed supply channels which included production of breeder and foundation seed under direct supervision on hired land or on parastatal seed farms and identification of the NGOs who were willing to produce and sell seed as per the contractual obligations with the provision to keep sale proceeds in a separate account for establishing private seed enterprises in future. At present entire quantity of foundation seed and quality declared seed and more than 3/4th requirement of breeder seed is being produced inside Afghanistan. Import has been restricted to only a small quantity of breeder seed of those varieties introduced from outside. As a result only 22 and 43 MT seed was imported in 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively. (Graph No-1).

3.1.3. Production of Breeder, Foundation and Quality Declared Seed

Breeder seed forms the basis of all further seed production arrangements. It is the availability of pure breeder seed of a new variety that ensure the increase in agricultural productivity. Next in importance to the purity of the breeder seed is the purity of the foundation seed and its availability in adequate quantities. Therefore,

production and distribution of breeder and foundation seeds are important aspects of seed programmes as they determine the volume of the quality declared seed production that would be available to the farmers. Despite various difficulties more than 521 MT and 3,927 MT foundation and quality declared seed respectively was produced in 1997-98. Similarly 409 MT and 5,259 MT FS and QDS respectively is likely to be produced in 1998-99 (Table No-7 & Graph No 1).

3.1.4. Farmers to Farmers Seed Exchange Programme

Despite production of substantial quantity of breeder, foundation and quality declared seed it was difficult to meet the demand of the seed of large number of farmers. However, at the same time it was necessary to make available better quality seed to the resident and returnee farmers at affordable prices so that small holders can also be benefited. To achieve this objective effective use of farm to farm exchange was considered best. It was seen that more than 95% farmers draw seed from their own stock or use seed gifted or exchanged by the close relatives under reciprocal obligation and some time as free gifts. It has also been seen that if a relative has good quality seed then it becomes almost obligatory on his part to share this seed in his extended family and such type of act reinforced family ties, as most of these transactions are between blood or close relatives. FAO-Crops started using this channel from 1995. However, it use could be made on a limited scale due to paucity of financial and human resources but it has tremendous potential in Afghanistan. The estimated quantity exchanged by more than 4500 contract seed growers every year is more than 5,000 MT. (Table No-7 & Graph NO-1).

3.1.5. Contract Seed Growers

Contract seed growers are the backbone of any seed programme and, therefore, they are selected carefully. While selecting programme examine that facility required for successful production of quality declared seed exist. The major facilities needed are sufficient area for production of seed with assured irrigation, availability of isolation, experience of the grower in respect of the seed crop and above all integrity of the seed grower. Because contract seed growers vary in back ground, skill and adaptability, seed programme tries to provide incentives to the growers to produce better quality seed. It has been observed that seed quality and production rise as each seed grower gains experience. The seed programme produces seed through more than 4,500 growers each year as evident from the data in Table No-7.

3.1.6. Dissemination of New Technology through Seed

Seed is fundamental in the transfer of technology to farmers. The seed programme is making full use of this aspect because the aim of programme is not limited to supply only good quality seed of improved varieties. In fact, seed programme is attempting to introduce new technology, increased use of fertilizer, a new cropping system and a new crop husbandry system through new varieties. The willingness of the farmers to change to seed of improved varieties is helping in spreading these technological changes. To exploit the full genetic potential of the improved but fertilizer responsive varieties arrangement was made to provide together with matching fertilizer from off-farm sources. This experiment has proved highly successful and required to be carried out on a larger scale in chronically food deficit areas to increase productivity and production. This is because the seed and fertilizer



Plate - 1
Wheat - Poppy
Competing for the best land and inputs



Plate - 2
Mobile Seed Processing Unit

provided as a combined package has proven very effective indeed in "priming the pump" of local crop production. By using these inputs, farmers have in the majority of instances been able to double or treble their crop yields, compared with using traditional seed grown under the same conditions. Fertilizer (DAP and Urea) is still not readily available in Afghanistan. Unfortunately, the food deficit areas are also deficits in fertilizer. In fact, hardly any fertilizer is available and if any thing is available its quality is very poor and cost is exorbitant. At the present time it is very difficult for farmers to reliably obtain high quality seed and matching quantities of fertilizer from the local markets on time, even where they have finance available, except through the agency of the UN (FAO), and/or other international aid agencies. Project imported more than 6, 865 MT fertilizer in1997-98 for distribution along with seed. (Table No-8)

3.1.7. Increase in Crop Productivity and Food Security

The main objective of the FAO-Crops is to improve national food production capacity so as to achieve basic household food security and lay the ground for further increase in crop productivity. Through distribution of seeds of early maturing high yielding varieties enabled the farmers to produce more food per unit area. As a result, the crop productivity has almost acquired the level of 1978. (Table No-9 & Graph No –2). Before the war, the area under poppy was 6,000 ha. and production about 200MT. Both the hectarage and production of opium have increased 1,000% after the war. It is a serious obstacle in increasing wheat productivity. It should be noted that, however, both PEACE and National activities have been carried out in parallel way in last one and half year. Both have complemented each other and helped to increase productivity at micro and macro level though percentage of increase differs widely.

3.1.8. Formulation and Implementation of the Seed Production CSAs

Earlier the implementing partners were paid on actual basis for the services rendered by them to produce and distribute seed on behalf of FAO. It is natural that in such cases implementing partners will calculate the person power on the basis of the requirement in the peak season, while it remains underutilized during idle season. Besides, there were some complaints for underpayment. Thus, it was creating problem for both. To avoid this problem, cost of seed production was calculated in terms of dollars per MT and in a joint meeting with all implementing partners it was decided to reimburse US $ 55 for each metric ton seed produced, processed, treated and distributed on behalf of FAO. The Contractual Services Agreements (CSAs) were drawn accordingly. A copy of the typical CSA is attached at Annex I. The detail of the CSAs signed during 1999 could be seen in Table No 10.

The monitoring is done regularly by NPPP Seeds and STA Seed. The seed lots found confirming to the field and laboratory standards are procured and distributed.

3.1.9. General Monitoring of the Seed Sector

In absence of a proper government it was not expected to receive any assistance from counter-part or government administration. At the same time the programme was to be changed from import base to in-country seed production. This required actual production and marketing of the seeds and accumulation of sale proceeds. Thus the

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